Daily Report

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Inter-Arab Affairs

AMU To Request Cancellation of Libya Sanctions

LD3003183993 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Mr. Mohamed Amamou, the secretary general of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], is expected to go to New York in the first week of April to convey to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali a Maghreban request for the cancellation of the sanctions imposed against Libya a year ago, and to present to him a report on the subject before 15 April, the date the UN Security Council will meet to reexamine the issue of the sanctions imposed against Libya.

It is noteworthy that the AMU foreign ministers' council decided at its meeting last February to send Mr. Mohamed Amamou to New York to carry out this mission. Tunisian-Libyan efforts have recently intensified to attain a peaceful and honorable solution to the dispute between Libya and some Western states in what is called the Lockerbie issue.

Buwayz on Damascus Meeting, Talks Participation

NC2903175593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Statement by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents at the conclusion of the meeting of the Arab cordon states' foreign ministers in Damascus on 29 March—recorded]

[Text] [Buwayz] Even though the meeting of the Arab cordon states' foreign ministers was held in extraordinary and critical circumstances and was surrounded by a gloomy atmosphere, the climate during the meeting was good and expressed a unity of vision and of the Arab position, as manifested by the meeting's unified stand. This meeting gave us an opportunity to review all the developments in the peace process in general and enabled us to read and analyze in depth the regional and international situations that affect the peace process. This enabled us to decide on a number of subsequent steps. The statement issued reflected the climate that prevailed. The contacts to be held on the sidelines might complete the picture before the meeting is resumed at a later stage.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, Arab participation in the next round of peace talks hinged on this meeting. The final statement said that there are consultations to remove the obstacles so we can participate. Do we understand from this that the consultations could lead to something before 20 April?

[Buwayz] It means that the participation remains suspended until a meeting is held, at which the appropriate stand will be taken.

[Correspondent] Have you, the Arab ministers, asked President Husni Mubarak to convey an Arab stand to the U.S. Administration?

[Buwayz] Of course, the presence of his excellency the Egyptian foreign minister and his participation yesterday in the meeting and the talks has put him in the complete picture. He or President Mubarak will convey Arab concerns about a number of points regarding the peace process.

[Correspondent] There is one important point, namely, should these consultations fail to reach a solution that removes the obstacles before 20 April, are there Arab alternatives on offer?

[Buwayz] Naturally. The coming meeting, during which the current discussion will be resumed, will put forth a number of options and a decision on them will be made then.

[Correspondent] What are they?

[Buwayz] If we spell them out now, there will be no need for the meeting.

[Correspondent] If the Palestinians decide one way or the other, as they deem best for their interests, not to take part in the talks, will you be prepared to attend without the other parties?

[Buwayz] In all cases, there will be only one unified Arab stand. This hypothesis is absolutely out of the question. What is sought is either full and comprehensive participation by the Arab states concerned with these talks or no participation at all.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that a speedy solution is possible in light of the ongoing consultations, particularly since the U.S. Administration says that it will act as an active partner?

[Buwayz] Actually there is controversy resulting from conflicting statements by the U.S. Administration. At one time we hear that it will play its role as a full partner, while at another time we hear that it will not take the place of the parties and will not pressure anyone. Therefore, an accurate definition of the U.S. role is needed because it is instrumental to the peace process. Let me repeat once again that when we joined the peace conference, the bet was placed on the credibility of the U.S. Administration more than it was on the Israeli role. One thing is clear: If Israel is not pressured, we do not think it will opt for the aspired peace. Thus, the United States is required to play an active role now that it is the only superpower, and as such, it must exercise the role of a fair and just arbiter that can be trusted with implementing the resolutions of international legality.

[Correspondent] Some people say that the U.S. Administration is trying to pressure the Arab parties to overcome the issue of the deportees and other obstacles. Is this true? If so, what is the Arab stand on this?

[Buwayz] This is not true, but if it was, we would want the pressure applied to the party whose positions are in conflict with the bases and goals of the peace conference.

[Correspondent] Do you expect positive results to emerge from the contacts to be made?

[Buwayz] It is inappropriate to jump ahead of events. There are Egyptian-U.S. contacts under way and contacts will also be held with the U.S. Administration by the countries participating in the talks. Some of the delegation members will head for Washington to hold talks. We will make our final decision after considering the results of these contacts.

[Correspondent] What would your position be if Israel refused to secure the return of the deportees, who are on Lebanese territory?

[Buwayz] First of all, Israel's attitude will not be judged by one aspect. What we want is to be sure about the sincerity and seriousness of the Israeli position. Naturally, the question of the deportees is a basic and significant clue to Israel's attitude. Judging by the way Israel will respond to a number of issues, including that of the deportees, we will take the appropriate position.

Abu-Jabir Comments on Damascus Meeting

JN3003100993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Mar 93 pp 1, 22

[By Ahmad Hisban]

[Excerpts] Damascus—Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has described as good the cordon states foreign ministers meetings which ended in Damascus yesterday evening, adding that they were held at a critical and important stage and under sensitive circumstances.

In an interview with AL-DUSTUR correspondent in Damascus, Dr. Abu-Jabir said that the Damascus meeting was one of the most important meetings to be held, especially since the new U.S. Administration has assumed office and because the forthcoming round of negotiations will be the first to be held during this administration's term in office.

Dr. Abu-Jabir added: What makes this meeting more important is that the U.S. Administration has informed us that it will be a full partner in the peace process.

On the concept of the U.S. Administration being a full partner, Dr. Abu-Jabir said: As yet, we do not know the dimensions of this expression, its purport, or what it exactly means. It only shows that the U.S. Administration seems to be concerned over the peace process and that it wants to play a role in it. [passage omitted]

On some Israeli statements dealing with unilateral withdrawal from Gaza, Dr. Abu-Jabir said: We have heard much talk about this, but as is usually the case with Israel, one hears much noise but sees nothing.

On the Egyptian role and on whether the conferees have asked Egyptian foreign minister to communicate what took place at this meeting to the U.S. Administration, Dr. Abu-Jabir said that the Egyptian foreign minister will most certainly draw a picture of the atmopshere in which the discussions were held, the results of the meeting, and the conferees impressions about what is taking place in the arena. [passage omitted]

On reports that some separate agreements with Israel are imminent, Dr Abu-Jabir asserted that the Arab parties are commited to not signing any separate agreements with Israel. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Health Minister Arrives for Arab Meeting

NC2903170693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1546 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, Iraqi Health Minister Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a visit of several days, during which he will participate in the 17th session of the Arab Health Ministers Council. The session is due to open Wednesday [31 March].

* Arab Mojahedin Families Leave Peshawar

93P50123A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Mar 93 p 4

[Report by Jamal Isma'il]

[Text] Islamabad—A large number of Arab families are leaving Peshawar, either for their countries or elsewhere, two weeks before the deadline set by the Pakistani authorities for the Arab mojahedin to legally establish their residence in the country. The deadline is at the end of this month.

Arab sources in Peshawar told AL-HAYAH that about five families a day leave Pakistan for good. Some of these families are going to perform the minor pilgrimage, during which they will decide their next destination, and others are leaving directly for their final destination, such as the Palestinian and Jordanian families that have already headed for Jordan.

This is occuring at a time when the Pakistani authorities have intensified their efforts to pursue the followers of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman after a communique was issued in Peshawar that criticizes the Western campaign against him and when it is being said that an Arab embassy has disclosed the identities of some of [his followers] to the local authorities.

The same sources stated that some members of the Egyptian Islamic Group in Peshawar have already sent their families to Egypt, fearing that the Pakistani authorities will resort to arresting them and delivering them to the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad. After the families leave, the leaders begin to look for a different destination for them.

Some of them may return to Egypt by various routes that avoid entering through Cairo Airport, where there are lists of the names of those wanted by the customs and security men.

In addition to Islamic Group members, a number of doctors working in the Islamic relief organizations have left Peshawar. Most of them are either from the Muslim Brotherhood or sympathize with it. These people do not face inconveniences upon entering or leaving Egypt. The Pakistani authorities have prepared lists of the Arabs who are residing in Pakistan illegally, in preparation to launch a campaign to oust them from Pakistan in the next few days.

The authorities intensified their measures to pursue the members of the Islamic Group after a communique circulated in Peshawar reached Cairo. The communique threatens to disrupt Western, and especially American, interests if the U.S. authorities proceed with regard to Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who is being blamed his followers' possible connection with the World Trade Center explosion in New York.

Arab sources in Peshawar said that one of the Arab embassies has delivered a new list of names of persons charged with being connected with the aforementioned communique to the Pakistani authorities.

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi on West Bank, Gaza Strip Closure

TA3003211793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi have condemned the government decision to impose a closure on the territories. They said that this would only exacerbate the cycle of violence. Speaking to an ITIM correspondent, al-Husayni said that Israel has placed yet another obstacle on the path of the peace process. According to him, only real progress in the peace negotiations could stop the violence. Dr. 'Ashrawi said that collective punishments will only increase the rage of the Palestinian people. The two returned this evening from talks with heads of the Washington administration.

Palestinian Leader Denounces Closure

TA3003173193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] The closure on the territories will damage the peace process and will not have an effect on the level of violence. This is the reaction of the Palestinian delegation to the inner cabinet decision today. Nazmi al-Ju'bah, member of the Palestinian advisory committee, said that it will be impossible to enter negotiations under such pressure. Our correspondent Moti Gadish reports:

[Begin recording] [Gadish] Sources in the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks hope that the closure of Judaea and Samaria will not last longer than one or two days. Nazmi al-Ju'bah says that a longer closure will result in a cumulative damaging effect, mainly as far as the economy of the territories is concerned.

[Al-Ju'bah] Between 30-40 percent of the families in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will suffer from lack of work and funds over the next few days. I do not know how they will be able to feed themselves under such circumstances.

[Gadish] Al-Jub'ah maintains that the inner cabinet decision will also have a negative influence on the political process. The closure will only create additional pressure on the Palestinian delegation, which finds it difficult as it is to detect a way to return to the talks.

[Al-Jub'ah] I think the closure will not help at all as far as the peace process is concerned—it will only damage the peace process between the Palestinians and Israel. I think that it is impossible to enter negotiations under such pressure. Israel is deporting people abroad, and then it closes us up like animals in the West Bank and Gaza. This will not help us reach a decision to return to the negotiations.

[Gadish] Al-Jub'ah also said that the level of violence in the territories will not decrease as a result of the closure. [end recording]

'Arafat Says Intifadah Soon To Enter New Stage

JN3103070393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0510 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] In an interview with our radio during which he dealt with the meanings of Land Day, which was celebrated by the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories, and after he spoke about the increasing Israeli repression in the occupied territories, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announced that the intifadah would soon enter a new stage. He also spoke about the PLO leadership's Arab contacts and the constants adopted toward the peace process. President 'Arafat spoke to colleague Salah Salamah:

[Begin recording] [Salamah] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], as we all know, the Israeli repression has not, as yet, succeeded in quelling the popular wrath and the hostile feelings toward the occupation?

['Arafat] As I told you, we have mighty people among us.

[Salamah] Yes, and the intifadah experiences a qualitative escalation from time to time?

['Arafat] Not only this. I have told the people: Let the ground burn under the invaders' feet. This should be understood by those near and far.

[Salamah] Could you tell us where the intifadah is heading in terms of weapons of confrontation, the ability to stand fast, and the set targets?

['Arafat] So far, the intifadah is still in its sixth stage. We have not yet entered the seventh stage with all its dimensions. What they are now experiencing is simply violence in response to their violence.

[Salamah] What are the features of this seventh stage?

['Arafat] Salah, let us keep it as a surprise. As I told you, we have mighty people among us. [end recording]

U.S., Israel Said To Block Europe Role in Talks

NC3003193193 Paris AFP in English 1840 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Amman, March 30 (AFP)—A PLO official on Tuesday [30 March] urged Europe to participate in the Arab-Israeli peace talks and accused the United States and Israel of seeking to limit European involvement.

The head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's information department, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, said PLO officials would raise the issue with European Community representatives due to arrive in Jordan later Tuesday.

'Abd-Rabbuh added that the PLO delegation here would also ask the European commissioner for foreign affairs and the foreign ministers of Belgium, Britain, Denmark to push for the resumption of the U.S.- PLO dialogue.

U.S. officials stopped meeting with the PLO after an aborted Palestinian attack on Israel in 1990.

'Abd-Rabbuh urged Europe to "really participate next to the two sponsors (the United States and Russia) in the bilateral negotiations."

Europe's role "must not be restricted to the multilateral negotiations" on arms controls, water rights and other issues outside the main focus of the peace talks, he said after arriving in the Jordanian capital.

"The United States and Israel want to limit the European role" in the peace process, he charged. "This harms European interests and doesn't help the process" to advance.

In Cairo, Nabil Sha'th, an advisor to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, complained about the talks in Washington on Friday and Saturday between U.S. and non-PLO Palestinian leaders.

"There was no agreement on an acceptable timetable for the return of Palestinian deportees, nor on a formula which would guarantee Israel will not resort to expulsions in the future," Sha'th told AFP.

Israel's expulsion of some 400 Palestinians to Lebanon on December 17 has stalled the peace process. The Arabs have not yet agreed to attend the next round of peace talks set for April 20 in Washington.

"If there is a delay in the peace process, it's because the foundations of peace have not been respected, but the Palestinians are serious in their commitment to the process," he said.

The talks in Washington also focused on the "need to include the question of Jerusalem at all stages of negotiations, but the results of the talks were insufficient," he said.

The Palestinians and Israelis both claim Jerusalem as their capital.

Thousands of Palestinians marched through a refugee camp just outside the Syrian capital of Damascus to protest Land Day, commemorating the 1976 deaths of Arabs protesting land seizures in Galilee.

The protesters, responding to calls by 10 Palestinian groups opposed to the Middle East peace talks, also demanded the return of the deportees.

Arabs in Israel and in the occupied territories held strikes to mark the anniversary.

Palestinian Delegation Leaves To Meet Europeans

NC3003202793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1854 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, left Cairo for Jordan this afternoon to take part in the talks that will be held between a Palestinian delegation and a European Community team.

In a perdeparture statement, Sha'th said the Palestinian delegation led by Faruq Qaddumi includes Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory committee, and Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral peace talks.

Dr. Sha'th said the meeting acquires special significance because of its level of Palestinian representation, both from inside and outside the occupied territories. He noted that this representation was formed on the basis of a European decision that provides for promoting relations with the PLO and boosting European support for the Palestinian issue.

Touching on the peace conference, Dr. Sha'th said: We must wage the political battle and the intifadah battle together. We cannot ignore the deportees issue or the oppressive practices in Gaza during our negotiations with all the parties concerned with the return of the deportees. He said: We are not setting out conditions, but we demand that all obstacles be eliminated.

Dr. Sha'th said: Jerusalem represents the first point in the negotiating process and there can be no negotiations without Jerusalem. The second point concerns the

transfer of real authority to the Palestinian people in accordance with Security Council resolutions.

Dr. Sha'th added: We all want a just, all-embracing peace, not a one-sided peace. He said he hoped the negotiations will resume and the obstacles will be eliminated.

Dr. Sha'th said he will leave for Tunis following the meeting in Jordan to take part in a meeting of all the Palestinian leaders.

'Abd-al-Shafi: UN Troops Could Keep Peace in Gaza

NC3103101093 Paris AFP in English 0856 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 31 (AFP) - Palestinians could ask U.N. or Arab troops to maintain order in the Gaza Strip if Israel abruptly pulled out, the head of their peace talks delegation Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said in an interview published Wednesday [31 March].

But he told Wednesday's AL-KHALIJ daily that he [does] not think the Israelis would withdraw because of a surge in Palestinian attacks.

"I believe the talk about withdrawing from Gaza is not serious but if Israel wants to pull out, we will not beg it to stay," he said.

"If it wants to withdraw unconditionally, it should inform us so we will take necessary precautions to enforce law and run life. In this case, we will seek foreign help from the United Nations or a neighbouring country like Egypt or Jordan to keep the law until we set up our own authority," he said.

Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, of the leftwing Meretz Party, has suggested that the Palestine Liberation Organisation could set up an independent Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is opposed to a pullout from Gaza before Israel reaches an autonomy agreement with the Palestinians for all the occupied territories.

'Abd-al-Shafi repeated the Palestinian position not to attend the April 20 peace negotiations unless Israel accepts U.N resolution 799, which calls for the immediate return of some 400 Palestinian deportees stranded in south Lebanon.

"We will not return to a peace process that has no credibility," he said. "Israel must respect international legitimacy and resolution 799. Without this, we will not go back to the negotiations."

He said Palestinians were ready to show flexibility on a timetable for the return of the deportees if Israel pledged not to expel any more Arabs.

"If Israel makes such an official pledge, we will show some flexibility on the timing of the deportees' return. We could agree on a timetable that does not go beyond June. But the most important thing is that Israel should not resort to deportation again," he said.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Damscus Meeting, U.S. Attitude

JN3103095093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Mar 93 pp 1, 17

[Report by Riyad Mansur]

[Excerpt] Amman—A PLO delegation arrived in Amman yesterday after attending the meetings of the Arab cordon states' foreign ministers which concluded in Damascus the day before yesterday.

The delegation comprises Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department; Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks; and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, said the Damascus meeting was very important because it helped to unify the Arab position on the various current questions.

He said the meeting demonstrated a concern by the various parties over the lack of United States' seriousness and bias in favor of Israel. This has prompted us to reach the decision that we either go to the talks together, or boycott them together.

He asserted that the Israeli statements on separate solutions are unfounded and aim at wasting time and confusing the political process.

Responding to a question, he said the new U.S. assurances, discussed during the meeting held two days ago between Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi and U.S. officials in Washington, do not meet our minimum requirements. He said what the Palestinian side wants is a return of the deportees in accordance with a timetable, as well as a commitment to the basic issues relating to the peace process.

'Abd-Rabbuh said he believes the U.S. Administration wishes to resume the negotiations for the sake of negotiations. This, he said, will obstruct the peace process even if it starts on 20 April.

The head of the PLO Information Department held the Israeli Government responsible for the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories. He said the situation may escalate even further if no political solutions, based on balanced principles and respect for legitimacy, are reached. [passage omitted]

Ahmad Jibril Attacks PLO Leadership

JN3003194693 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Speech by Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, during a popular rally held by the 10 Palestinian factions opposed to Arab-Israeli talks, held in al-Yarmuk camp south of Damascus on 30 March to mark the 17th anniversary of the Land Day—read by announcer]

[Text] We are saying to the Tunis leadership and the hesitant persons that the land of Palestine is the most sacred land in the world and that the test must show the extent of adherence to the land from north to south and from the sea to the river. The forces of colonialism have been trying for decades to make the land of Palestine, which was occupied in 1948, a subject for bargaining. They also offered may temptations to our people everywhere. The defeatists said: Let us get what we can, lest we lose everything. Then they started the program of relinquishment. We ask the Tunis leadership: What did you get from surrender and relinquishment?

The land of Palestine is indivisible. Our people in Nazareth and Galilee announced several decades ago that the land of Palestine cannot be divided. You hear now that they want to divide the people of Palestine too. They say that the Palestinians are those who live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. By this, they want to delete the 4 million Palestinians of the diaspora. You in al-Yarmuk camp, al- Wihdat, and 'Ayn al-Hulwah are totally deleted, and your right to return is also deleted, as they decide in Washington.

For six years, our unarmed people have been fighting with stones, knives, pistols, and Molotov cocktails. The Zionist armament technology is unable to confront our children and women in the occupied territories. We are a nation of martyrs. We do not fear death, but these Zionists stick to life. Look at what has happened over the last two months. Every day a Zionist is killed. Listen to their screams and moans and see how the Zionist army is collapsing and running away in the streets and how they evacuate streets in Tel Aviv and Haifa when they see a man in the street carrying a knife.

You also see the heroic battles taking place in southern Lebanon and you also see how the Zionists and their agents in the south are screaming. We say that this is the will of the people. This is how Palestine can return and how the Arab nation can restore its glory.

We are witnessing the intifadah and the spirit of jihad. There is a great and important spirit of jihad inside Palestine and southern Lebanon. The United States wants to abort this spirit. No one can stop our people's heroic deeds in southern Lebanon. The United States and the Zionists have repeatedly urged President Hafiz al-Asad to stop the intifadah. He told them that the intifadah was recognized by all the humanitarian laws and international charters. A nation whose land is occupied has the right to fight the occupier.

The Tunis leadership wants to be a Trojan horse in order to abort this spirit of jihad. We support you Palestinians in the occupied territories. All honorable Arabs and Muslims are with you. Syria, under struggler President Hafiz al-Asad who rejects any bargaining over the Palestinian people's rights, is with you. We tell our expelled brothers and our brothers in prisons: Be patient. This is the path of jihad and struggle, and victory will certainly come. If God grants you victory, no one can defeat you.

Talk About Arab Coordination Called 'Bombastic'

TA3003193893 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 29 Mar 93 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "The Ninth Round and the Test of Solidarity"]

[Excerpts] The Palestinian negotiators yesterday ended their meetings in Washington aimed at removing the obstacles placed [illegible] Israel on the path of negotiations by deporting 400 Palestinians more than 100 days ago to Marj al-Zuhur in Lebanon. The Palestinian delegation, headed by Faysal al-Husayni, adhered to the firm Palestinian stance that the resumption of negotiations hinges on the return of the deportees and Israel's commitment not to resort to the deportation policy in the future. The Palestinians showed flexibility in their position when Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi stated that setting a time frame for repatriating the deportees by the end of May will be an encouraging step for the delegation's participation in the ninth round of negotiations, slated to be held on 20 April.

There is not only a consensus but an acknowledgment that one of the causes for the recent escalation of the wave of violence in the occupied territories was the deportation operation. Moreover, the parties are convinced that the resumption of negotiations is the only way to end violence or to ease tension in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Undoubtedly, the success of the peace process and the achievement of a settlement between the Palestinians and the Israelis will lead to security and stability in the entire region. If, however, the negotiations remain stalled, extremism in the Arab and Palestinian camp on the one hand, and in the Israeli camp on the other, will gain "a victory" because tension in the region will increase. Therefore, the voices on the Palestinian side that are trying to wreck the talks will converge with the Israeli extremism that is pressuring Rabin and trying to topple him from power. We are not saying this in defense of Rabin, who misjudged by deporting the Palestinians and refuses to return them to their homes. What kind of stupidity is this that accepts returning the deportees after some months and refuses to return them now? [passage omitted]

The Palestinian delegation that departed for Washington and held talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian, announced through Hanan 'Ashrawi that the Americans displayed serious concern to the needs of the

Palestinians and the requirements for their participation in the upcoming negotiations. The Americans, however, refused to give any promises in this respect. They also refused to respond to the six points delivered by the Palestinians to Christopher during his visit to the occupied territories last month. Clearly, U.S. officials, in their endeavor to pressure the Palestinians to participate in the upcoming round, have been hinting to the Palestinians that Syria and Lebanon will participate in the upcoming round irrespective of whether the Palestinians come to the negotiating table and that Syria and Lebanon are on the verge of achieving separate settlements with Israel.

Thus, the Palestinians are once again finding themselves alone in confronting Israel. Talk about Arab coordination and a unified Arab stance is no more than bombastic slogans that are closer to daydreams than reality. Over more than four decades the Palestinians paid the price of the claims of some Arab regimes about the pan-Arabism of the Palestinian cause and Arab solidarity. When the test came, Egypt flunked and sold its commitments to the Palestinians at Camp David. Today, it is the turn of Syria and Lebanon, and the betting is on them. Will they follow the example of Egypt, whereby this will become a new calamity for the Palestinian people?

Damascus Meeting Resolution Called 'Positive'

TA3003173893 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 30 Mar 93 p 9

[Editorial: "The Damascus Meeting—A Positive Call for Reflection"]

[Text] The resolution issued by Arab ministers and officials meeting in Damascus was positive in its call for reflection, deliberation, and avoiding haste in determining an Arab position regarding the resumption of or participation in the peace talks. This wait-and-see call is justified both in respect to the joint negotiating tracks and each track separately—Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian.

Definitely, the ministers and officials conducted an assessment of the talks, held over an entire year in eight rounds, and their results. The Arab peoples concerned, and above all the Palestinians, are questioning the benefits achieved after all this time toward implementing UN resolutions calling for Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967.

The restrictions and limitations imposed on the Palestinian track in particular, and the other Arab tracks in general, caused the talks to go around in circles. This has continued in the era of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin who promised his people that peace will be achieved, whereas the peace process is still stalled despite the fact that a long time has passed since it was launched.

Any decision to participate in the talks must be preceded by the removal of the causes that led to the decision to suspend the talks. Otherwise, the Arab position will lose its credibility and cohesion before the Arab people, particularly the Palestinians. This will have considerable effects and results on the Arab and Palestinian street, whose dimensions and consequences are difficult to predict.

The Damascus meeting held the United States responsible for the current deadlock in the peace process. The United States has backed down from implementation of Resolution 799 calling for the immediate repatriation of the deportees, despite the fact that it voted for this resolution at the Security Council. It is the United States which has declared its unlimited support for Israel. Earlier, it was the United States that determined the modalities and terms of reference of negotiations. Now, it is seeking the resumption of negotiations, in the form of an ultimatum, despite all the flaws in the modalities and terms of reference.

While affirming that the peace option is an Arab and Palestinian strategy, our duty toward coming generations is to establish peace on firm and just foundations. Therefore, any flaw in the structure and terms of reference of negotiations must be rectified. The talks are not a goal by themselves, rather the aim is the establishment of peace and an end to the long suffering of the Palestinians.

Algeria

Twenty-Three Terrorists Killed After Barracks Attack

LD3003202793 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Twenty three terrorists, including two soldiers who were in cahoots with the terrorists, were killed by the security forces following the attack carried out by a terrorist group consisting of 35 persons on a barracks for the repair of equipment in Bougzoul, some 20 km from the city of Ksar El Boukhari, on 22 March. The losses among the soldiers of the barracks amounted to 18 dead and 12 wounded. The National Gendarmerie command announced the news today, Tuesday, saying that this operation was carried out with the help of four militarymen working in the barracks who were in collusion with the attacking terrorist group which consisted of 35 men.

The officer on guard and his assistant admitted six strangers on the basis that they were soldiers passing through Bougzoul, to break the fast with them, exploiting this way the tradition of hospitality decreed by our Islamic tolerant religion especially in the blessed month of Ramadan, to carry out their treacherous terrorist operation. Once in the barracks these terrorists wore military uniforms handed to them by one of the soldiers who was in on the plot. A few minutes before the evening call for prayers signaling the time for breaking the fast, they attacked the four guards in the barracks and assassinated them in a bestial manner using cold-steel weapons. Then they went for the officer on duty and his deputy and killed them in the same manner as with the four guards.

The source added that after the six terrorists had committed these ugly crimes, they signalled the remaining members of their group who were lying in wait outside on a truck, 29 persons including two soldiers from the same barracks who were in cahoots with the terrorist group, to come in. A group of them attacked the canteen where soldiers were breaking the fast and seized their weapons after they were brought under control, while another group attacked the office where the telephone exchange is located and killed the two soldiers there with cold-steel weapons. The group sabotaged the equipment and then set out immediately to achieve the main objective of the attack: seizing the weapons store.

On approaching the intended place, they were discovered and the guard opened fire at them killing one of the attacking terrorists: Hammana Faisal, the son of a Harki [a former Algerian soldier in the French forces] who has been sought by the security forces since 1992, and who is known for his travels to the Middle East. Also he carries a French passport issued in the city of Rodez, in the department of Aveyron. Before the attacking terrorists turned to flee in three trucks that were waiting for them outside, being chased by the remaining soldiers of the barracks, they assassinated the disarmed soldiers who were under their control in the canteen in cold blood and took their weapons. By nightfall the whole area was quickly encircled by the special forces of the People's National Army and the National Gendarmerie who set up roadblocks and used aircraft to search for the fleeing terrorist group.

The following day the three trucks were seen at the Aamoura crossroads, 5 km from the city of Djendel near the Sed Ghrib dam. The terrorists, however, turned back in the direction of Tamesguida in Medea Province when they discovered the existence of an army roadblock. On 25 March the first clash with the fleeing terrorist group took place at El Hamdania, in Medea, in which four terrorists were killed and a significant quantity of the stolen weapons was recovered. When the terrorists became certain that the security forces had encircled the area and blocked all the roads, they tried to disguise themselves by wearing civilian clothes and used public transport to leave the area. They split into two groups, each taking a bus on the Medea-Blida road carrying the stolen weapons hidden in bags. When the first group approached a roadblock at 1515 on 27 March near Cheffia, its members tried to flee. Four were killed in the clash that took place. It transpired that two of them were from Hussein Dey, one from El Harrach, and another from La Montagne district, Algiers.

The members of the second group met the same fate when they tried to flee. Most of them were killed in the clash. The National Gendarmerie command adds that one of its patrols saw three other terrorists from the same group near Ksar El Boukhari. One was killed and two fled. Thus 23 terrorists were killed and 16 others are still on the run. They are encircled by the special forces of the army and the National Gendarmerie, and they include two NCOs.

As for losses in the ranks of the soldiers in the barracks they were 18 soldiers dead including an officer and an NCO, and 12 injured. The special forces of the National People's Army and the Gendarmerie involved in this operation have been able to recover an important quantity of weapons stolen from the barracks, in addition to the weapons which were in possession of the terrorists killed, including a Scorpion submachinegun which is a Czech copy of the Israeli Uzi submachinegun.

Total Number of Terrorists Killed 4 Dec-19 Feb

LD3003225593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2130 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] This evening the National Gendarmerie issued a summary of the antiterrorist operations waged since 4 December 1992, the date when the antiterrorist law came into force: 211 terrorists have been killed. The National Gendarmerie's communique points out that this figure does not take account of the 23 terrorists killed after the attack on the Bougzoul barracks. The Gendarmerie adds that about 1,100 terrorists are currently being hunted and a further 1,800 have been arrested. The Gendarmerie points out that this summary was drawn up on 19 February.

Turkish, Tunisian Ministers Arrive in Algiers

LD3103091693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin arrived in our country last night on an official visit at an invitation addressed to him by Redha Malek, member of the Higher State Council and foreign minister. In a press statement Cetin said that this visit would enable him to discuss bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues with his Algerian counterpart Redha Malek. He also stressed that his country was determined to develop its relations with Algeria in all fields, particularly the economic field.

The Tunisian Minister of Economy Rabah Sadok arrived in our country on a three-day official visit, during which he is to hold talks with members of the government with regard to developing economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. This visit comes within the framework of preparations for the proceedings of the next session of the mixed Algerian-Tunisian committee.

Europeans Hold Talks With Islamic Society Movement

LD3003165893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Within the context of dialogue with the political parties, the European parliamentarians met this morning with the representatives of Hamas [Islamic Society Movement]. Tomorrow they will meet with representatives of the National Liberation Front and the Socialist Forces Front. This evening the delegation will be received by Mr Hacene Mefti, energy Minister; and Mr Benhabyles, minister delegate in charge of national solidarity.

The European delegation will talks with Algerian womens' societies, and tomorrow Mr Claude Cheysson will hold a news conference in [word indistinct] hotel in Algiers.

Egypt

Two Builders Hurt in Explosion at Pyramids

NC3003160493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA)—A minor explosion occurred in the Pyramids area in Giza at noon today, slightly wounding two builders who were carrying out maintenance work in the area. No tourists were hurt in the blast.

Security men examined the area to find out whether terrorists were behind the explosion.

Culture Minister Denies Monuments Damaged

NC3003173993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA)—Culture Minister Faruq Husni has affirmed that all archaeological monuments in the Pyramids and Sphinx areas are intact. He denied that the incident that occurred in the Pyramids area at noon today caused any damage.

Husni appealed to officials in the Antiquities Department to intensify and tighten security measures around all archaeological sites in the republic and to adopt round-the-clock measures as a precaution against any sabotage attempt against antiquities and to preclude any threat to tourists visiting these areas.

Security Source: No Explosives

NC3003205393 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] A responsible security source has stated that at 1100 today, an explosion was heard near the Pyramids as two builders from the archaeological department cleaned a chamber. The builders were using some inflammable material like acetone. One builder was slightly hurt but no damage was caused.

A preliminary examination revealed no trace of explosives.

Experts from the criminology laboratory left to inspect the scene and determine the cause of the blast. The public prosecution department has been notified.

Explosive Devices, Leaflets Seized in Asyut

NC3003184393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Asyut, 30 Mar (MENA)—Security men in Asyut today seized some explosive devices and a quantity of swords and chains that extremists were planning to use in their terrorist operations against police troops. In addition, approximately 3,000 leaflets belonging to extremists and containing threats against state officials and policemen have also been found. During their search campaigns, security men seized a large quantity of leaflets containing instructions by al-Jihad mufti Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, which the extremists were hiding in a room annexed to the al-Kabir Mosque in Asyut.

The Asyut prosecutor assigned an explosives expert to defuse the explosive devices, ordered that the seized items be held as exhibits in connection with the case, and instructed policemen to arrest the extremists right away.

Asyut Chief Prosecutor Muhammad al-Khuli has renewed the remand of extremists Ashraf Mahmud Muhammad, a 20-year-old student; and Musa Mutawalli 'Isa, a 23-year-old worker; for another 15 days. They are accused of possessing antiregime leaflets and assaulting two citizens on 15 February.

Consultative Council Discusses Terrorism Report

NC2803183893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1457 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA)—In a meeting for the Consultative Council under the chairmanship of Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi this morning, the participants reviewed a report by the Council's Arab Affairs, Foreign, and National Security Committee, headed by Dr. Mufid Shihab, on "confronting terrorism."

The report stressed the importance of seriously and decisively confronting terrorism. It said there can be no party democracy, free press, or free expression if terrorism is not confronted firmly before it worsens. It noted that other countries faced serious complications when they failed to realize the gravity of violence at an early stage and when they showed tolerance of promoters and advocates of violence.

The report said terrorism's new trend of attacking tourism and threatening the investment climate seeks to negatively affect Egypt's economy and international status at a time when the country successfully began implementing its economic reforms and establishing an outstanding status on the regional and international levels.

The serious thing about this new wave of terrorism, the report said, is that it involves several aspects and methods: It is taking place simultaneously in Asyut, Cairo, Alexandria, and other regions. It is also taking on important regional dimensions as the world increasingly turns its attention toward the Middle East. Developments in the region as a whole, particularly in Egypt, are being inflated politically and through the media, and Egypt knows the reasons. This is despite the fact that terrorism in the region and the world is growing far more than in Egypt.

Dr. Shihab, who read the report, discussed the funding, training, and arming of terrorism. He said this is an important factor in dealing with terrorism, especially since internal and external dimensions are involved here.

He said the sources of funds and weapons for the terrorist groups are largely known: direct private funding, fund-raising in mosques, robbing jewelry shops, running small businesses, assassinating guards and seizing their weapons, and other sources in the secret arms market.

He said methods of training terrorist organizations have also become known. The serious thing, he added, is that both Arab and non-Arab countries, such as Sudan, Iran, and certain forces and groups in other countries, support terrorism in Egypt through funding, training, and arming.

The report also explained that the problem of terrorism involves a mixture of economic, social, political, cultural, and religious dimensions. Confronting the phenomenon, the report added, requires a general, comprehensive strategy to handle all these dimensions collectively. [passage omitted]

Minister Notes 'Determination' Against Terrorism

NC2803164393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 28 Mar (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that confronting terrorism shows that there is determination and a will to contain and eliminate the elements of terrorism.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH published today, al-Sharif said that firm confrontation means that the state is determined to be decisive on terrorism. He added: As far as the media is concerned, we have a clear-cut strategy and policy. Under this strategy, we believe that terrorism and extremism only gain ground in closed societies, whereas the most important characteristic of the Egyptian people's culture is their openness and ability to deal with other cultures. Thus, a broader and more comprehensive strategy for refuting all the allegations of terrorism and extremism is to let the Egyptian people live in their own world, open up to all cultures, exercise freedom of opinion, and live in a true democratic era. [passage omitted]

Al-Sharif said: We talk to people who have an ideology, even if it is not correct. As for terrorists, we do not consider them a national force. The government, for instance, is talking with the Labor Party. We held a dialogue when dialogue was feasible and confronted terrorism when decisiveness was needed. He pointed out that confronting terrorism, extremism, and attempts to stir strife between Christians and Muslims in Egypt is not the responsibility of the media alone, but of families, universities, and all forces in society.

Al-Sharif noted that among the negative effects of terrorism is that it harms the image of stability. He added: This gives the opportunity to a sick media, such as in Sudan, to judge democracy in Egypt or to a poisonous radio, such as Tehran's, to insult the regime and democracy in Egypt and to imagine that striking at terrorism means that democracy is in jeopardy. However, I tell them: It is hard for you to undermine Egypt, because you are mistaken in your judgment and because problems are widespread in your own society. [passage omitted]

He said that the Damascus Declaration must remain in order to maintain the unity of principles, goals, and values that link the people and member states of this declaration. He added: Whether it is called the Damascus Declaration, bilateral cooperation, a joint Arab defense pact, or economic cooperation is not the issue, because we are not fighting over a name, but to preserve the noble Arab values linking the supreme interests of these peoples together. [passage omitted]

Appeal for Unity To Confront Terrorism Issued

NC3103082893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2034 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA)—Party leaders, professional associations, university professors, the Egyptian Workers Federation, businessmen, and bankers have issued an appeal to all Egyptians to close ranks to protect the homeland and its legacy from the threat posed by fanaticism and terrorism.

The following party leaders signed the appeal:

Dr. Yusuf Wali, secretary general of the National Democratic Party [NDP]; Kamal al-Shadhili, NDP assistant secretary general and leader of the majority at the People's Assembly; Wafd Party leader Fu'ad Saraj-al-Din; Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, leader of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG], who is also the leader of the opposition at the People's Assembly; NPUG Secretary General Dr. Rif'at al-Sa'id; Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad; Liberal Party Secretary General 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Shurbaji; and Jamal Rabi', leader of Egypt's Arab Socialist Party.

The appeal was also signed by the heads of the professional associations, the heads and professors of Egyptian universities, the Egyptian Workers Federation, businessmen, bankers, artists, and a number of public figures.

The appeal says the signatories, out of concern for their beloved country, call on all Egyptians to close ranks to protect the country and its legacy and preserve unity among its people. The appeal says all Egyptians should act in accordance with Egypt's cultural and spiritual heritage and confront the fanatic and terrorist tendencies that threaten to undermine the country and its stability and damage its unity, safety, and integrity. The appeal notes that the peaceful population has been shocked by the acts of random terror. Although these acts will never succeed in undoing the strong fabric of the nation, they have claimed innocent lives and caused damage in various parts of a country accustomed to tranquility, stability, and peace, the appeal adds.

The criminal wave of terror, the appeal says, uses religion to camouflage the threat it represents for the entire nation. The appeal calls on all Egyptians to act unitedly and protect their country from terror.

Military Trial of 49 Adjourned Until 4 Apr

NC3103062793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1928 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA)—The Supreme Military Court, presided over by Major General Muhammad Wajdi al-Laythi, resumed its sessions today to examine the case of 49 terrorists, including seven fugitives, who are accused of striking at tourism and disrupting security. The court adjourned the session until Sunday [4 April] to give the defense an opportunity to examine the approximately 2,000-page file of the case.

Twelve lawyers were present at today's session. They were brought in to represent the defendants after the original lawyers representing them walked out of yesterday's session claiming that they were engaged in other cases and that they were not given enough time to present their defense in the case. The defendants said they insist on being represented by the original lawyers. The Court president stressed that all defense guarantees for them will be ensured and that the law requires the presence of lawyers to defend them, because they are accused of murder, possession of weapons and ammunitions, and membership in an unlawful organization that sought to overthrow the regime.

The military prosecutor asked that the tapes connected to the case be added to the file, since they contain the defendants' full confessions of the crimes for which they are being tried.

Rwandan Envoy Discusses Problems With Mubarak

NC2903212493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1737 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—Enoch Ruhigira, envoy of Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana, left Cairo today after ending a visit of several hours to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

The envoy described his talks with Mubarak as very fruitful and said that the president showed complete understanding of the difficult conditions in Rwanda.

In a statement to MENA before leaving, he said he asked Mubarak to intervene with the UN secretary general to implement Resolution 812 on UN forces (?deploying) in the buffer zone between Rwanda and Uganda to halt fire there. He added that he asked Mubarak to intervene to end the conflict in Rwanda because Egypt will chair the next African summit.

The Rwandan envoy accused Uganda of supporting the opposition national front forces with money, ammunition, and troops. He said that in October 1990 they attacked citizens on the Rwandan-Ugandan border during the guerrilla war which has been raging up until today, displacing 650,000 people.

He stressed the need to resort to dialogue instead of force to settle this conflict now that the country has introduced democracy and the multiparty system. He noted that the fact that citizens flee these hostile areas proves that they reject these forces.

He said that the OAU has formed a group of military observers comprising 50 personnel from Senegal, Nigeria, Mali, and Zimbabwe, in addition to 50 representatives from Rwanda and five others from the Rwandan national front to monitor the cease-fire, and that the group members have been in their positions since July 1992. He added that this group was not

sufficient, and therefore Rwanda requested that UN troops intervene to participate with the OAU in helping Rwanda with funds and ammunition.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, Sudan's al-Bashir Attend Celebration

LD3003151093 Tripoli JANA in English 1424 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabie [Mar] 30, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The masses of the communes converged today to meet the leader of the revolution and Lt. General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in sisterly Sudan and his accompanying delegation, which is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah.

Thousands of citizens lined the roads and greeted the leader of the revolution and Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. They raised green banners, the flags of sisterly Sudan and photos of the leader of the revolution and Lt. Gen. al-Bashir.

When the leader of the revolution and Lt. Gen. al-Bashir arrived at the reception venue the Jamahiriyah masses mingled with them and repeatedly called for the establishment of total Arab unity. They raised banners highlighting this popular demand.

One banner said "unity brings triumph from Marrakesh to Bahrain". Another said "one nation—not [words indistinct]". A number of people slaughtered camels to celebrate the arrival of the leader and Lt. Gen. al-Bashir.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir made a speech at the beginning of which he said: "We are very happy to meet the sons of the Arab Libyan people. This nation which struggled, and is still struggling for the establishment of Arab unity and which did not surrender to Western and imperialist pressures, this nation which rejected colonialism and oppression and domination as well as all sorts of influence on Arab decision-making."

Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir said at the end of his speech that the Arab Libyan people under the leadership of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi have emerged as the only hope for the realisation of Arab unity and the restoration of Arab solidarity and Arab power to liberate Palestine and for the triumph of the Palestinian people and their salvation.

The ceremony was attended by Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmed Jallud and Colonel 'Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir. The celebration was also attended by the secretaries of the [words indistinct] committees secretaries for unity general people [words indistinct] planning, commerce and finance, agricultural reform and land development and animal resources and by Abbas Ibrahim al-Nur, the ambassador of Sudan to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Bashir Departs

LD3103140593 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1052 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 31 Mar (JANA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council in sisterly Sudan, and the accompanying delegation left the Great Jamahiriyah at the end of a visit lasting [words indistinct].

The brother leader of the revolution said goodbye to Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir and the accompanying delegation before they left Tripoli. [passage omitted]

FRY's Cosic Sends Message to al-Qadhdhafi

LD3003153993 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1456 GMT 30 Mar 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tripoli, March 30 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic has sent a message to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in which he informed the Libyan leader about the activities of the government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia aimed at stopping the war in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and finding a peaceful solution for the crisis there.

The message was handed on Tuesday [30 March] in Tripoli by Yugoslavia's Ambassador in Libya Dusan Simeonovic to Libyan Foreign Minister 'Umar al-Muntasir.

In his message Cosic welcomed the Libyan leader's friendly and objective position on the crisis in former Yugoslavia.

Morocco

Iraqi Envoy Arrives With Message on Security Council Issues

JN2903175093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Ambassador Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, personal envoy of leader President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, arrived in Rabat today.

In a statement to reporters, the personal envoy of the president said that his visit to Morocco is meant to follow up on fraternal bilateral ties and discuss issues pertaining to Iraq at the Security Council, since Morocco is an Arab member of the council.

Al-Tikriti added that he is carrying a message from leader President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Hassan II on these issues.

Al-Tikriti was welcomed upon arrival at the airport by (Abdellatif Moulin), head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the Iraqi ambassador in Rabat.

King Hassan II Receives UN Representative Yaqub Khan

LD3003133693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, UN special representative in charge of the Western Saharan file, was received by Moroccan King Hassan II in Rabat yesterday evening. No information was leaked about the meeting, which precedes the upcoming visit of UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali to Algeria and Morocco.

These contacts are aimed at reviving the UN plan stipulating the convocation of a self-determination referendum in Western Sahara. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Khalifah Denies Sudan Linked to Terrorism

EA3003143993 Khartoum SUNA in English 0900 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Khartoum, 30 March (SUNA)—Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly (TNA) Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah has affirmed that the Sudan's relations with the sister, friendly countries and the whole international community are aimed at achieving cooperation and integration with these countries for the interest of humankind. Interviewed by the American, ABC, TV station Monday [29 March], Khalifah has emphasised Sudan's keenness to realise peace in the country, asserting Sudan's respect of international characters and conventions. He indicated that the international community began to understand Sudan's position in support of international peace and cooperation. Khalifah has denied existence of any link between the Sudan and terrorism.

He asserted that the Sudan Government is aware of its responsibility for providing the war-affected citizens in the South with relief materials even at the rebel-held areas. Khalifah, meanwhile, has categorically denied the falsehood being circulated on human rights violations, stressing that the Sudanese people are enjoying a peerless freedom of thought at the area. He explained that the policies of economic liberalization and self-reliance have realised positive results, adding that the Sudan was able to ensure its citizens food security and to export the food surplus to sister and friendly countries.

Khalifah pointed out that the Sudanese people have abhorred pluralism and become aware of their role towards the development process. Responding to a question, the TNA speaker said that members of the coming TNA will be elected through channels of the political system. He also praised the performance of the current TNA. He noted that the current TNA includes scholars and specialists in various fields, adding that the TNA is including more than 70 members from the southern states. Khalifah has asserted the importance of strong and friendly relations between the Sudan and the United States.

U.S. Intention Not To Intervene Noted

PM3003113893 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 29 Mar 93 p6

[Salah 'Abd-al-Amin report: "Khartoum: United States Has No Intention of Intervening Militarily in Sudan"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum—A Sudanese official has stated that the Sudanese Government has received "assurances" from President Clinton's administration that "the United States has no intention of intervening militarily in Sudan and is not contemplating taking such a step in the future."

That official is Dr. Fadl al-Sayyid Abu-Qusaysah, Sudanese minister of state for development affairs in the south [title as published], who recently visited Washington and participated in the discussions of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee subcommittee on Africa. Abu-Qusaysah said "we received these assurances from the U.S. Administration in Washington during that visit." [passage omitted]

'Heavy Influx' of People to Government-Controlled Areas

NC3003155593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Mar (MENA)—The governorates of south Kordofan Province have witnessed a heavy influx of people in the past few days as growing numbers defect from the ranks of the rebel movement to the government-controlled regions.

People arriving from the region said tribes inhabiting the rebel-controlled areas are dissatisfied with the conduct of the rebels, who pillage people's property and force them to do hard labor in very severe conditions.

Some 22,000 people have returned from rebel-controlled areas, 1,500 of them last week.

Preparations are under way to set up five camps to receive returning people and provide jobs for them.

Minister Regrets Continued Fighting in Upper Nile State

EA3003184193 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Dr. Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, minister of economic planning and the official spokesman of the government delegation to the peace negotiations [with the Sudanese People's Liberation Army], has expressed his deep regret at the continuing fighting between factions of the rebel movement around the Kongor area in Upper Nile State, which has been reported by news agencies. He said this fighting confirms that the continuing war in the south is not one between the north and the south or between Muslims and Christians, as some people believed.

Dr. Ali al-Hajj called on all the rebel factions to stop fighting, pointing out that the war between them could develop negatively and hamper efforts to send relief supplies to those affected in the south. He added that the government on its part had declared a cease-fire in reaction to the declaration by the John Garang faction of a cease-fire. He explained that all the rebel factions should abide by a comprehensive cease-fire in order to create a suitable climate for the second Abuja negotiations.

Tunisia

Ben Yahya Holds Talks With Polish Economic Minister

LD3003215093 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya has held talks with the Polish minister of foreign economic cooperation. The Polish minister expressed his satisfaction at the firm relations between the two countries, pointing out that Tunisia and Poland were holding consultations on developing their relations with the European Common Market. He has added that bilateral cooperation would also lead to a contribution toward safeguarding peace and security in the two regions to which the two countries belonged.

Kuwait

Assembly Condemns Assault on Deputy After 'Smear Campaign'

LD3003194693 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Statement issued by the National Assembly followed regular session on 30 March—read by announcer]

[Text] The assault which took place today against one of the nation's deputies in the Assembly building on the day fixed for the regular weekly session, immediately after adjourning the session for prayers, is not only an insult to a son of the Kuwaiti people, whose Arab character is proud of its sons, but it is also an assault against the Kuwaiti people as the deputy represents the whole nation.

The people have chosen this Assembly and bestowed the honor of representation on the deputy. Therefore, the deputy has enough pride and status in this confidence and trust. The assault is an assault on democracy. The assault took place under the dome of democracy and because the deputy was carrying out his parliamentary duties.

As they carry out these duties, this deputy and other deputies have been, for some period, exposed to an organized smear campaign propagated by the enemies of democracy and the enemies of reform. These enemies were horrified that the parliamentary march has started to bear fruit. Because of inevitable reform steps they hired cheap pens to exploit the honor and trust of the word as a mask to protect them as they insult the Assembly and its members and accuse them of the corruption and deviation that characterize those writers and those who are behind them.

However, if the situation has reached the stage of arranging for the assault to take place inside the Assembly hall and before a group of deputies, journalists and visitors, then this is a dangerous sign that democracy is threatened. A danger imposed by some people who are trying to bury democracy.

The Constitution is committed to providing the deputies with immunity by specifying that the deputy is free to express opinions and ideas in the Assembly and its committees, and that he cannot at all be blamed for them. Also unless it is a case of flagrante delicto no measures, not even judicial ones, can be taken against the deputy without the Assembly's permission.

Therefore the assault which took place against a member of the legislative authority within the sanctum of the Assembly was beyond the imagination of any constitutional or ordinary legislator. This makes the assault a dangerous precedence that the Assembly cannot ignore. The incident was reported to the public prosecution authorities immediately so they could adopt the necessary measures. At the same time the Assembly emphasizes its commitment to keeping the press as it should be: a rostrum for the virtuous honorable word, a rostrum for popular participation, and a sanctuary for freedom of opinion.

The Assembly expresses its appreciation of the executive authority, represented by the minister of state for cabinet affairs and his address to the Assembly condemning this assault as soon as the authority heard of the incident. The Assembly will remain proud of the stances adopted by the citizens, the free men of our national press and the popular organizations in their confrontation of all the attempts to violate the constitutional legitimacy.

God has said: But the plotting of evil will circumsribe only the authors thereof. God has spoken the truth.

Lebanon's al-Hirawi Conducts Talks

NC3103084993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] At 2200 yesterday, President al-Hirawi met with the chief editors and proprietors of Kuwaiti newspaper at Bayan Palace in Kuwait. He said: Lebanon is participating in the bilateral Middle East peace talks to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425 and liberate the part of southern Lebanon occupied by Israel. This resolution is frank and clear and must be implemented unconditionally. UN Resolutions 242 and 338 also concern Lebanon because we want the whole Arab territory to be liberated and the Palestinian people to have their rights restored. After that, they will have their own identity. He added: Some say that the Palestinians have been dispersed and Lebanon must be prepared to settle them and give them Lebanese citizenship. God forbid, if we do this, we will have eliminated the Palestinians twice. The first time was when they were dispersed, and the second time when we deprived of their original identity. I don't believe that they want an alternative to their own identity. We are not prepared to give them another identity.

Al-Hariri went on to say: Lebanon's area is 10,452 square km. It is already overcrowded with its own citizens. Lebanese residents number about 5.5 million, while Lebanese expatriates number about 6 million. Some of these expatriates are experiencing tragedies in certain African countries and might be compelled to return to their motherland, Lebanon. We ought to receive them before we receive others. As for our Arab brothers, who wish to come Lebanon as visitors or tourists, they are welcome. Hence, yesterday, before I left Lebanon, the government adopted a decision to return the houses owned by the brother Kuwaitis and other Gulf nationals to them. These houses are at their disposal. The state is prepared to help them in this regard. I believe some of them have started to repair their houses. [passage omitted]

On the reconstruction of Lebanon, President al-Hirawi said:

[Begin al-Hirawi recording] Everybody knows that weapons can destroy buildings and installations in seconds. However, reconstruction requires a number of years. If Lebanon has requested aid for its reconstruction and rebuilding of its infrastructure, I believe this is its right. [passage omitted] This is not something new in the world. Germany was only rebuilt through the Marshall Plan. Japan, which was destroyed by atomic bombs, was rebuilt after General MacArthur's plan was prepared. [passage omitted] Should Lebanon remain without electricity and water? Should it remain without hospitals, schools, and roads? [end recording]

Answering a question, President al-Hirawi said: Approximately 95 percent of the part of the al-Ta'if accord pertaining to Lebanon has been implemented. The remaining topics are bills that the parliament is discussing. As for the part of the accord dealing with Arab aid, none of this aid has arrived so far, except a few contributions from some Arab funds, especially Kuwaiti funds. [passage omitted]

Asked whether there are differences in view between him and Prime Minister al-Hariri, al-Hirawi said: For the first time in 30 years, there is an identity of views in Lebanon on how to best serve the country. The proof is the deportees' issue. Since the 1960's, there has not been an identity of views in Lebanon on the strength of the army, on foreign policy, on the peace conference, or on the understanding that Lebanon is no longer of an Arab character but is genuinely Arab and is proud of this. [passage omitted]

Holds Talks With Amir

LD3103139193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Kuwait, 31 March (Kuna)—Official talks were held here today between the Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and his highness the amir of Kuwait.

The minister of amiri affairs, Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad, said that the talks focused on the developments of the situation on the Gulf, Arab, and international arenas. The talks also covered the bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries, issues of common interest to the two fraternal people and the means to develop them in the various fields.

He also said that a friendly atmosphere prevailed during the talks which were characterized by understanding and a spirit of fraternity. Al-Hirawi began his visit to Kuwait yesterday.

Foreign Investments Undergoing Restructuring

LD3003164993 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1409 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (KUNA)—'Ali Rashid al-Badr, the chairman of the Kuwaiti Investment Office, emphasized that "amalgamating the Kuwaiti Investment Authority with the London Investment Office comes within the context of a new strategy for restructuring the Kuwaiti investment bodies and portfolios abroad." In an interview published here today in AL-ALAM AL-YAWM economic newspaper al-Badr said that a developed strategy will be announced before the end of this year to improve the monetary revenues of the foreign Kuwaiti investments and to restructure the investment portfolios so that they become "compatible with the international financial and economic developments."

He pointed out that the new strategy includes a geographical and qualitative revision of the the distribution of the Kuwaiti foreign investments in the light of a number of considerations, including the investment situation in Kuwait and in the various world regions in addition to improving the revenue which requires redistributing the investment assets.

Al-Badr emphasized that he will work toward developing the operations of the Kuwaiti Investment Authority within Kuwait, especially as the authority has gone a long way in that road.

He pointed out that the plan for developing the operations includes amalgamating a number of Kuwaiti investment companies so that there will be three or four companies only so as to benefit from economies of scale. He hinted that it is on the cards that the amalgamation will happen between investment companies and other financial organizations in which the government is a shareholder.

Al-Badr emphasized that there will be a comprehensive review of Kuwaiti investments in Spain after the discovery of the mistakes and violations following the Spanish courts' assessment of the Grupo Torras SA case.

Saudi Arabia

GCC's al-Qasimi Discusses Integration With Prince

LD3003205593 Riyadh SPA in English 1917 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Riyadh, March 30, SPA—Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister received at his office here on Tuesday the new secretary general of the Gulf Coooperation Council (GCC), Fahim al-Qasimi. The meeting was attended by Isma'il al-Shuri, assistant under secretary of the ministry.

Meanwhile, Shaykh al-Qasimi has said that he would give priority to the removing of obstacles hindering the integration process between member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council. It is made up of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman. In an interview with the Jeddah-based AL-MADINAH Arabic newspaper, he said the GCC would concentrate for the moment on the quick implementation of the resolutions adopted by the GCC summits and would try to overcome the handicaps facing the GCC integration programs in order to meet the objectives set by the GCC leaders.

Husayn on U.S. Relations, Other Issues

OW3003161993 Tokyo TBS Television in Japanese 1400 GMT 30 March 93

["Exclusive" interview with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn by correspondent John Alpert in Baghdad; date not given; Saddam speaks in Arabic with superimposed translation into Japanese; from the "Tetsuya Chikushi's News 23" program—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Begin recording] [Alpert] Do you like being interviewed by a television station?
[Saddam] I personally do not like it. I do not like anything that is prepared in advance. I also do not like prepared questions.

[Alpert] Did you foresee a severe counterattack when the Iraqi Army entered Kuwait?
[Saddam] Yes, I did. I imagined a more severe counterattack.

[Alpert] Could you speak briefly about your ideas concerning the use of nuclear and chemical weapons?

2[Saddam] Here—I will tell you exactly what I think. I am ready to remove all weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East region. I have a strong willingness to do this.

[Alpert] Basically, Americans have lost confidence in you.
[Saddam] It does not matter whether they trust me. In the near future, Americans will know that Iraqis are the most reliable people.

[Alpert] Do you intend to extend friendship to the United States?
[Saddam] If the United States wishes, I am ready to talk to establish a new relationship.

[Alpert] Do you have any message for viewers from Japan?
[Saddam] I hope you will send my sincere greetings to them. I want to say not only to the Japanese but also to people in other countries, including Americans, that only rulers make mistakes, and that the general public follows the truth once they understand what the truth is. [end recording]

U.S., West Assailed Over Sanctions Extension

JN3103100893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0726 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH holds the United States and Western countries responsible for the death of a quarter of a million Iraqi children and the starvation of 18 million people as a result of their continuous pressure to perpetuate the embargo against Iraq.

In an article published today, AL-THAWRAH, speaking for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds that the United States and Western countries have once again extended the unfair embargo under the pretext of false allegations that Iraq is not complying with all resolutions pertaining to the cease-fire.

The paper describes the decision to extend sanctions as a "political decision" that has nothing to do with Iraq's compliance with UN resolutions. The paper adds that this decision exposes malicious intentions toward our people and shows how far the enemies are determined to go to undermine our people's will, steadfastness, and national unity.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: Iraq has implemented the overall commitments and obligations imposed on it by Security Council Resolution 687. Casting doubts, leveling accusations, and promoting baseless pretexts and excuses in this regard cannot obscure the position of the Security Council as well as its unobjective and unfair attitude toward the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people.

The paper adds: Thanks to the U.S-Zionist-Western domination, the UN Security Council is directly contributing to criminal genocide against Iraq, because it is denying the Iraqi people access to the basic requirements of survival.

Concluding its article, the paper says: Our great people, who have held out in the face of the most ferocious and tyrannical aggression in the history of world peoples, are fully capable of confronting the embargo, breaking it, and thwarting its objectives, thanks to their firm will, their gracious patience, their willingness to make sacrifices, their creative and innovative abilities, and their scientific and technological know-how.

AL-'IRAQ Criticizes UN Handling of World Issues

JN3103110193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0741 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ affirms that work in the lobbies of the United Nations must emanate from a spirit of justice, fairness, and humaneness.

In an article published today, the paper warns that failure by the international community to vindicate justice at this point in time in particular will bring about a decline in the international state of affairs. The United Nations must be aware of this right now before it meets the abject fate of its predecessor, the League of Nations.

The paper adds: The United States, that is, the new U.S. Administration, must realize before it is too late that the regional powers which have increased their strength pose the most serious perils to world security and peace.

AL-'IRAQ hopes that the United Nations will coordinate action to bring about international cooperation in resolving economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian issues, as enshrined in its charter. It should endeavor, the paper maintains, to spare itself the fate of becoming an

echo to hegemonic powers. It should oppose the obstructionist efforts being made out of selfish interests that have nothing to do with the interests of peoples and the humaneness of nations, the paper notes.

AL-'IRAQ affirms that Iraq has always been and will always remain a factor of stability, that a strong Iraq would maintain the balance of power, and that any disturbance in the balance of power to the detriment of Iraq will disturb the overall regional balance of power.

AL-'IRAQ notes the statement made by former French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement that instability in the Middle East region is nowadays greater than it was before the "Gulf war," and that the so-called new world order has turned into massive international chaos.

Defector Testifies Against Iraq's Barzan

PM3003130693 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 30 Mar 93 p 17

[Paul Vallely report: "This is his little brother—and he is even worse]

[They will be safe once the door closes behind them in 10 Downing Street this morning. But for the rest of their lives the three senior Iraqi opposition leaders who today meet the Prime Minister need constantly to look over their shoulders. They are watching out for Barzan al-Tikriti or his stooges.

Barzan is not a prominent name in Western demonology. In theory he is merely the head of the country's delegation to the United Nations in Geneva. But to Saddam Husayn, half-brother Barzan is a crucial linchpin in his struggle to stay on top in Baghdad.

Barzan is the man who controls Iraqi agents working to undermine opposition groups in exile throughout Europe. He monitors the activities of Iraqi ambassadors outside Baghdad to make sure that they stay loyal. He has masterminded sanctions-busting projects to get industrial and military components into the besieged Iraqi economy. He is the conduit which Saddam uses to brribe crucial political figures in other countries. Last month he undertook a low-profile round of personal diplomacy to persuade Arab nations to oppose the renewal of sanctions at the UN in New York this week. He has been, according to one Western intelligence expert, the most important member of the Iraqi regime outside Baghdad.

But there is more to Barzan than even that. During the past two years, in which the Iraqi dictatorship has been beleaguered by economic sanctions and its overseas assets have been frozen by the Western powers, Saddam has had only one unassailable source of external support—the $20 billion of oil money which Barzan salted away in a complex network of undercover companies centred around his Geneva base.

The detail of all this has come to light because of the testimony of Nasir Madhur who, until he defected recently, was first secretary at the Iraqi mision in Geneva and was Barzan's personal translator. He also drafted Barzan's top secret reports to Saddam in Baghdad. Speaking for the first time since his defection, Madhur reveals a world of political intrigue, ritual humiliation and personal cruelty in which the high-living Barzan sits like a calculating spider at the centre of the web of dummy companies and puppet financiers.

"He operates through placemen who act as fronts and agents," says Nasir. "Their job is to manage Barzan's money in the form of investments and trading companies." Kroll associates, a firm of financial investigators hired by the Kuwaiti government to track down Saddam's money, calculates that Barzan has purchased nearly $1 billion worth of shares in public companies in the West on Saddam's behalf. The rest has disappeared into the closed world of Swiss banking and a wide range of dummy companies.

All this has gone on under cover of representing Iraq at the UN's Human Rights Commission. Not that Barzan lacks knowledge of human rights abuses. Previously he was head of the Mukhabarat, the Iraqi secret service which has been responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of its own citizens. Barzan has been directly implicated in much of its dirty work. He directly supervised an operation in which 8,000 Kurds were massacred.

Stories of his personal cruelty are legion. "He often brags about how he shot a member of the Mukhabarat when he was its head because the man bought a bottle of wine without permission," says Nasir. "The agent had been assigned to track the Iranian ambassador to Baghdad and followed him into a diplomat's duty-free shop. While there he took the opportunity to buy a bottle of wine for himself. Barzan said this was treason and shot him three times at point- blanks range."

Barzan was born in 1951 and brought up as the son of a shepherd who married Saddam's mother after her first husband died. He was 17 years old when his family seized power in Iraq in 1968. Despite the sophisticated image he has since cultivated, he retains a peasant outlook and is badly educated. His MA in Politics from Baghdad University was acquired after the 1968 coup without earning it. "Since then he has come to know silk ties, fine wines and has become addicted to power, but a child can spell better than him," says the main who corrected all his telegrams before they were sent to Saddam.

But Barzan was a man of energy and vast self-confidence. Over the years he was entrusted with some of his regime's most important and sensitive tasks. He was a key figure in the long negotiations which ended the eight-year war with Iran. He played a central role in recruiting scientists to work on Iraq's nuclear bomb. He sat next to Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq's foreign minister, throughout the talks with the US Secretary of State,

James Baker, which sought to persuade Saddam to climb down in the build-up to the Gulf war. Before long he was regarded as the second most powerful man in Iraq.

Barzan was also charged with the delicate task of chaperoning Saddam's son 'Udayy who was sent into exile after killing one of his father's close aides. When 'Udayy arrived in Geneva as a tourist, Barzan appointed a personal bodyguard to follow him everywhere. "One night 'Udday got fed up with this and when the guard persisted in following him, shot him twice," says Nasir. 'Udayy was whisked off back to Baghdad before he could be charged with anything."

During the Gulf war Barzan performed another crucial task. He worked with Saddam's wife, Sajidah, when she arrived in Geneva with great quantities of gold made from melted down jewellery collected from the Iraqi people. Barzan liaised with Swiss and French traders. After the war he paid $1 million to a leading Arab figure from an allegedly neutral country whom Saddam felt had given important clandestine assistance.

His personal behaviour is just as corrupt. After the invasion of Kuwait, the Swiss asked Barzan for the release of Swiss hostages held as part of Saddam's human shield. Barzan said he could do nothing until they issued him with a licence plate for his new car.

"He always tells Westerners that he is not one of the decision- makers in Iraq—but he is," says Nasir. Last month that pretence ended when Saddam appointed Barzan as foreign policy overlord, ranking above the foreign minister. He has, as yet, retained his UN credentials in Geneva.

The bullying and intimidation characteristic of the regime in its international dealings is also reflected in Barzan's personality. He runs the mission in Geneva through a process of fear and humiliation. He uses his bodyguards and other agents to spy on his own staff. "Once he invited a guard to sit in on a dinner banquet given for a specialist in international law and disarmament while asking the diplomat who should have attended to stand guard instead of the junior employee," says Nasir. "On another occasion he assigned a senior diplomat to watering the roses in the garden after the man had refused to accept an insult which Barzan had thrown at him."

He once sent an employee who was suffering from a blood clot in his leg on a long journey, contrary to doctor's orders, by air to Amman and then across the bumpy road to Baghdad. When asked why, he said: "You have to put pressure on where people are weak." It was a succinct summary of Iraq's foreign policy.

Like so many of his ilk, Barzan suffers from delusions of grandeur. "Once when he had been drinking whisky he told Syrus Nasiri, the Iranian Ambassador to the UN in Geneva, that he, Barzan, was a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad," said Nasir. As so often, the grandeur goes hand in hand with fear. "Barzan travels everywhere by armour-plated car. He reads news, second by second, from the Reuters machine he has installed in his office. Everywhere he goes he surrounds himself with armed men." It is not just those in exile, it would appear, who feel the need to look over their shoulders.

'Major Assault' on Southern Areas Reported

NC3103153693 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Tyrant Saddam Husayn's regime continues its aggressive actions against our people in various parts of Iraq, violating Security Council resolutions that demand that it stop its persecution and annihilation of the civilian population. Opposition sources said that the ostracized regime launched a major assault on the al-Zijyah and al-Sikhrijah areas in al-'Amarah marshland, firing indiscriminately at citizens and their homes. In a recent statement, these sources said that the regime forces arrested everyone in the two areas and transferred them to unidentified destinations. The statement noted that the bloody regime last year executed hundreds of the population of the marshland area after taking them to camps south of Mosul and Irbil.

PUK Statement Tells of 2d Mass Grave

NC3003154393 Paris AFP in English 1522 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Damascus, March 30 (AFP)—A second mass grave containing more than 100 bodies has been discovered in Iraqi Kurdistan, a Kurdish group said here Tuesday.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said in a statement to AFP that a second grave with "more than 100 bodies" was found near Irbil "not far from the one discovered last week" where it says 1,500 Iraqi soldiers were buried.

The PUK could not say whether the bodies in the smaller grave were mainly those of civilians or soldiers, although he added that one was that of a woman under 18 years of age.

The first grave had the bodies of 1,500 Iraqi soldiers in uniform who were "executed by the Iraqi regime for their refusal to participate in the war," against Iran and the Kurds, the PUK statement said.

The PUK—citing results of an investigation by Kurdish authorities—said the larger grave was found near Irbil, regional headquarters for the Iraqi military before the Kurds took control of the north in 1991.

"The Iraqi regime had considered these soldiers as missing," it said. [passage omitted]

President's Adviser Inaugurates 'Fifth River'

JN3003163393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president of the republic and supervisor of the industry and oil sectors, today inaugurated Iraq's fifth river, the al-Qadisiyah River.

An Iraqi News Agency correspondent reports that a celebration was held on the occasion in the al-Mahdi area in al-Muthanna Governorate. [passage omitted]

Al-Nida' State Enterprise Resumes Molds Production

JN3103114993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Mar (INA)—The engineering and technical cadres affiliated with the al-Nida' State Enterprise for Manufacturing Molds have resumed the production of molds for several household machines to meet domestic needs and beat the unfair embargo.

Engineer Yahya Nusayyif Jasim, director of the state enterprise, told INA that the mujahidin have begun an effort to produce molds for refrigerators, gas cookers, freezers, electric vacuum cleaners, and washing machines, which will all be manufactured by purely Iraqi expertise and raw materials.

Jasim added that all production lines of the state enterprise are now functioning as they were functioning prior to the treacherous missile attack. He noted that efforts have also been resumed to produce molds for the Iraqi al-Jahra' truck, some components of the household sewing machine, and several components of the two-tier Leader Saddam Bridge.

Rabin Interviewed on Security Situation

TA3003201193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik; at the prime minister's bureau—live]

[Text] [Sukenik] Sir, we have just seen the pictures that opened our newscast, and you had asked to make several personal remarks and address the public directly, before we start the interview. Please.

[Rabin] I wish to address you, the Israeli citizen. I understand the pain, the worry, and the rage. We are indeed experiencing a difficult period of rising Palestinian terrorism. Last month, 15 Israelis were murdered in Judaea, Samaria, Gaza, and the territory of the sovereign State of Israel. Terror has accompanied the lives, and unfortunately the deaths, of many of us for a long time. Terror has never beaten us, and never will. I would like to extend my condolences to the families that lost their dear ones, and wish the wounded to get well.

The question is: What are we required to do? First, we must wage war on terrorism with all our might. Second, we have to strengthen our spirit, face the test and win it, so that our enemies do not believe that we have weakened. Third, not to lose the faith, the hope that we will attain peace and solve the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestinian-Israeli one.

As prime minister and defense minister, I summoned the inner cabinet to make decisions on, first of all, how to fight terror. We made the following decisions: First, we will impose a closure on Judaea and Samaria in addition to the closure on the Gaza Strip. This will prevent the constant friction between some 120,000 Palestinians who work in Israel and the 4 million residents of the State of Israel. It will prevent the reality in which any Palestinian might pull out a knife and stab someone in addition to the ongoing terror activity. As of tomorrow, there will be no Palestinian resident of the territories within the boundaries of the sovereign State of Israel until further notice, naturally with the exclusion of the Arab residents of united Jerusalem, Israel's capital.

Second, we will reinforce the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The closure, leaving the 120,000 Palestinians who normally work in Israel inside the territories, might cause a rise in tension. Therefore, the IDF will reinforce its units because we are responsible for the lives of every Israeli citizen who lives in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. There may be political disagreements among us, but the current government is in charge of providing for the security of the Israeli citizens who live in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Third, we will improve the IDF activities, which have been going on for a long time with a significant degree of success and have not as yet quelled terror. We will upgrade and intensify the activity and take measures which I will not go into at this time. We will beef up the police forces; we will join the Civil Guard and strengthen it; and, if I may, I would like to address the media:

I saw the headlines on the stabbing of several youths. They were three times bigger than the newspaper headlines that reported that the Six-Day War broke out. The media also has a role in calming the public. Judging from my experience as a man who fought in the War of Independence, the Six-Day War, and the wars in between, I believe that we did not win them with our guns alone. We won because our spirit was strong, with the people backing up the Army even at times of crisis. I believe that if we adhere to a war against terror with every means, we will endure the trial of pain and worry, and not lose the hope that one day we will reach the peace which will put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and give a chance to us all to live our life in peace, while building our home and state. I believe that if we stand firm, and act in this way, we will indeed attain our goal.

[Sukenik] Sir, are you aware of the feeling of many Israelis that the government is demonstrating a lack of power, that the level of personal security in Israel is low?

[Rabin] First, as I have said, and I am not trying to hide it, last month was very difficult. The reasons are immaterial at the moment. The problem is what to do. The closure, imposed until further notice, will reduce the friction between the bulk of the Israeli populace and the Palestinian residents who work in Israel and who were the main source of concern for the fathers, the mothers, and the population at large. There is no doubt in my mind that the more we reduce this friction within the boundaries of sovereign Israel, including greater Jerusalem, between the Palestinians from the territories and the Israelis, the more the domestic security of all Israelis will rise. It is true that we are responsible for the safety of the Israeli residents of the territories. The IDF, the police, the Border Police, and other defense authorities are in charge of this. I believe that, in view of the closure and the reinforcement, we will succeed in delivering a hard blow to terror, beyond the blows that have already been inflicted on it.

[Sukenik] But you must be aware, and you have even spoken about this in the past, of the fact that such a closure increases the frustration, hardship, and bitterness in a short time, and eventually increases terror activity.

[Rabin] It increases terror mainly inside the territories. This is why we have reinforced the IDF. I believe that taking steps to prevent the knifing attacks in Bat Yam, Tel Aviv, Rehovot, Nazareth, and everywhere in the territory of sovereign Israel is of top priority. This is where most of the 4 million Israelis live. It is my primary duty to ensure their security in the face of those who can be prevented from attacking. My aim is to attain a gradual reduction—as fast as possible—of the number of Palestinians who come from the territories to work

inside Israel. This mix gives them the opportunity to destabilize the security of most of the Israeli public.

The war against terror in the territories will be hard. At the same time, we are taking two parallel paths, where one is not affected by the other: One, war on terror—and I would like to state: The IDF operates under no political restriction. The IDF may operate against terror with its full force, according to its own considerations, within the framework of the law to which we are all subject. The other path is: Yes, we will continue with the negotiations for peace. The negotiations are not the answer to terror; they are the answer to the conflict. If we find a solution for it, there will be a chance that the level of terrorism will gradually drop as well.

[Sukenik] But how long can you keep the residents of the territories under closure, blocked, in the distress you are aware of? Everything will come bursting out later, will it not?

[Rabin] The situation today is different. Today, the Palestinian delegation of the residents of the territories can solve the problem with us around the negotiating table. That is why I have a moral, practical, security, and even political justification for them: Dear friends, if you want to solve the problem, the place for this is at the negotiating table. In such an event, I have the right to keep the territories closed for as long as needed. The problem is not the Palestinians. It is their Israeli employers. Can we face the absence of Palestinian labor, and replace it with Israeli or other labor.

[Sukenik] Why do you not prevent the employment of laborers from the territories in, at least, agriculture? After all, we are witnessing incidents everyday where this temptation is too strong, and terror thrives.

[Rabin] Let us examine the events. In the Gaza Strip, in the Qatif Bloc, in Nisanit, four Israelis were murdered by laborers who worked or rode with them. Three of the Israelis who were murdered were armed. Being so close to and familiar with the population caused them not to be prepared for their own defense. This closeness, this so-called trust, creates the conditions for the knifing attacks even when the Israeli is armed. Eventually, he is murdered, his gun is taken away and placed in the terrorists' arsenal.

[Sukenik] Exactly. This is why I asked why do you, the government, not prevent by law the employment of laborers from the territories—at least in agriculture in certain regions—from now on?

[Rabin] It is not a matter of laws. Our considerations are practical. At present, the aim is separation, for the Israeli resident to know: There are no Palestinians from the territories inside the sovereign territory, with the exclusion of united Jerusalem. A terror squad might get through; I hope not. At the same time, this causes distress in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, which is why we reinforced our Army units. The war against the hard core of the murderous squads of the various terror organizations is waged in the territories. I believe that, even with the reinforcement, the war will not be long. But, first we will establish the separation, the isolation. Not to have them inside Israel. I did not want Gaza in Tel Aviv on a permanent basis through either a political or an immediate solution. [sentence as heard] That is why we made the separation.

[Sukenik] Sir, are we in a state of emergency—regarding terrorism, or can you promise the public that the situation will be different from now on?

[Rabin] Look, I know that there are those who offer solutions of a single blow that would put an end to it. Our experience with terror so far has proven this is a lengthy war in which the nation that does not get tired, that does not lose heart, wins. I understand and sympathize with the pain and concern of the people, but we have been through much harder times. I believe that through the path we are taking, with the means we are and will employ as I presented them, we will succeed in fighting terror. There is no hermetical solution to prevent every attack, but we will reduce the level of terror and pave the way to the negotiations where there is a solution to the conflict.

Further on Closure of Gaza Strip, West Bank

Police Add 'Complementary Measures'

TA3003161593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Excerpt] In addition to imposing a closure on the territories, the police have decided to take complementary measures. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the police will concentrate on exits from the territories to prevent Arab laborers from entering the Green Line. The police will also take severe measures against Jewish employers who will attempt to allow laborers from the territories to stay overnight in their homes.

The districts commanders were ordered to expand, as much as possible, the presence of policemen on the streets in car patrols, day and night. These decisions were made at a meeting of the police top brass this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Private Vehicles From Territories Banned

TA3103130193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal said that even after the blockade on the territories is lifted the entry of private vehicles from the territories into the Green Line will be banned. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum quotes Minister Shahal as saying that if private vehicles from the territories do not enter Israel it will be easier to control the movement of workers within the Green Line and terrorists will not be able to use vehicles to attack and then flee.

The police minister also warned that if terrorists use private vehicles for attacks in the territories he will recommend banning the use of such vehicles there and travel will be only by bus. The minister said most ministers support the proposal, but that security elements oppose it. Shahal spoke with reporters after the ceremony marking the change of police chiefs at the Prime Minister's Office.

Rabin Details Additional Measures

TA3003145393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Speaking at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this afternoon, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin provided the following details on the steps the cabinet decided on today: a closure of Judaea and Samaria and a continued closure on the Gaza Strip; a ban on the entrance of cars from the territories; a ban on the overnight stay of residents of the territories in Israel, including Jerusalem; an intensification of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activities in the territories while adding units to those already there, even at the expense of canceling training drills.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the prime minister mentioned the Military Chief Advocate's Office has authorized soldiers to open fire at any Arab who carries a gun and even if he does not appear threatening, to shoot. The prime minister added that the defense authorities operate on several levels; they do not abstain from carrying out searches inside or in the vicinity of mosques and print shops, and supervise contacts the residents of the territories have among themselves and with elements out of the territories.

He said that although the top rank of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has been hurt by the deportation and the IDF activity, we have not yet reached some of the activists that make up the hard core. He also noted that the terror organizations are improving their methods of operation, from forging documents to makeup and disguise techniques. The level of their sophistication has gone up and they have numerous hideouts, mainly in the refugee camps, he said. Rabin further said that the war against them is difficult and that the Shin Bet and the IDF are operating under the restrictions of the law, which limits their activities to a certain extent.

Gur: Open-Fire Orders Justified

TA3103122493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur says the new open-fire orders for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the territories are totally justified by the situation. Gur made the comment in this interview with Jack Katzenell:

[Begin recording] [Gur] This is one of the means and one of the ways to stop terrorism. There is no one way to do it all, but if you put together all the steps with a lot of patience no doubt we shall overcome it.

[Katzenell] Yesterday, Minister Ben-Eli'ezer said that the Army should get into the refugee camps and into the casbah more. It sounded like Ari'el Sharon talking. Do you feel the Army should be more confrontational, more aggressive?

[Gur] If I understand well, this minister is standing right here. You can talk to him.

[Katzenell] What do you think about it?

[Gur] I believe that we have the possibilities and the capacity to overcome it by the combination of a lot of fields, including some means to enter camps and so on, but I believe that this is not a subject to be discussed in the communications. [sentence as heard]

[Katzenell] What about this new rule of engagement which allows the soldiers to shoot armed terrorists on sight?

[Gur] I don't have any doubt that the new rules, all of them built on the international law and the Israeli law, will enable the soldiers to act in a more efficient way.

[Katzenell] You are not worried that it might lead to, for example, settlers being shot by accident because they are armed too?

[Gur] Even if I am worried I believe that right now vis-a-vis the existing wave of terrorism these steps are absolutely justified and necessary, and will be efficient. [end recording]

Construction Minister on Closure

TA3003165593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by Uri Paz and Pnina Bat-Tzvi—live]

[Text] [Paz] Good evening, Minister Ben-Eli'ezer.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Good evening.

[Paz] Today you visited the town of Hazor in Galilee, where you said we should hit the terrorists where it hurts, because we have the power to do so. You also asked: Who is in control, the government or Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]? This is also our question: Who is in control?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I think today we made an important decision that defines a clear separation—meaning the closure. This allows the forces dealing with the situation enough time to prepare properly. Although they are already in a state of preparedness, the new situation requires more preparation.

[Paz] What do you mean by hitting them where it hurts?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] We sincerely want to advance toward peace and a political process, but we must make it clear that our blood is not cheap. We consider a situation in which every day we wake up to find another body, unacceptable.

[Paz] We are aware of this, Minister Ben-Eli'ezer, but we cannot wage a war on terrorism with words...

[Ben-Eli'ezer, interrupting] This is not a contest of words between us, is it?

[Paz] The question is what are we to do?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Let me reiterate, I hope that by introducing numerous IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units into the territories, any disturbances and provocations will be countered by a sharp IDF response, just as an Army should react.

[Bat-Tzvi] Minister Ben-Eli'ezer, the government has decided to impose a closure on Judaea and Samaria only two days after it imposed a closure on the Gaza Strip. How do you explain this fact?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Look, so far we have concentrated on the Gaza Strip because to date most of the terror attacks occurred in that area. Today we learned that this morning's cruel murder was perpetrated by elements who came from Judaea and Samaria, and therefore...

[Bat-Tzvi, interrupting] These elements came from Rafah.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] To the best of my knowledge we have enough information indicating that elements in Judaea and Samaria are also organizing for attacks. It is therefore important to enforce this closure before anything happens.

[Paz] Do you realize the ramifications of a closure on the local population from an economic point of view?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Certainly. I have always been against this measure because I considered the resultant situation as an incubator for terrorism.

[Paz] Have changed your opinion?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Today we are witnessing an ongoing process of murderous attacks. We must implement various outstanding measures in order to co??ont this new situation successfully.

[Bat-Tzvi] How effective can a closure be? Will it not be possible to infiltrate across the border with cold-steel weapons or firearms?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] The closure expresses our determination to prevent anybody from exiting from the territories.

[Bat-Tzvi] But doesn't this invite infiltrators?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I hope not. This closure will not last for ever. I feel it will be lifted once things calm down. It is a mistake to believe that the closure by itself will solve the problem. It is, however, one of several steps we intend to implement.

[Paz] Minister Ben-Eli'ezer, the prime minister today told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee the government is considering completely banning Arab workers in Jewish agricultural settlements. Rabin himself is against this proposal. What is your opinion?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Let me tell you one thing, our cumulative experience concerning Arab workers on Jewish farms has been negative. I therefore support those who call for their removal from agricultural settlements, and believe we should introduce Israeli workers there. Regarding the general issue of Arab workers inside Israel, however, I believe we have no choice but to let them earn their livelihood.

[Paz] In conclusion, have you changed your positions following the recent events, at least as far as the issue of closure is concerned?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Absolutely not. I want to tell you that my opinions have not changed at all. There is, however, a new situation, and we are not dumb mules. We have to face this new situation and find solutions to the dramatic changes which have occurred. I continue to adhere to my positions and beliefs, but we must come up with a clear solution to the new situation. At this point this means the closure as well as a series of measures to be implemented by the IDF, which will bring about a physical clash with the murderers who are trying to murder our children.

Civilians May Use Arms 'To Apprehend Terrorists'

TA3103115093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Attorney General Yosef Harish has said civilians who possess firearms with licenses may use them to apprehend terrorists at the time of an attack as well as for self-defense. Reporter Jack Katzenell asked him if it was true that he intends to issue new guidelines for civilians with arms.

[Begin recording] [Harish] We intend to do so. Just to clarify things, not to establish new rules because the law to us is quite clear, it is a matter of the circumstances, whether the circumstances do justify the use of weapons, of arms.

[Katzenell] In general terms, if a civilian has a weapon, it is only for self-defense?

[Harish] Exactly, for self-defense and also for a case where he feels that he has to defend somebody else in his vicinity, he is of course, entitled to do whatever he can not only to save lives but to overcome the attacker. [end recording]

Hamas Takes Responsibility for Policemen's Murder

TA3003135693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] One of Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam squads took responsibility for the murder of the two policemen early this morning. A large, hand-painted message daubed on a building in the main Rafah market reads: The special units of the 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam group this morning killed two policemen near Hadera and took their weapons. The graffiti further states that the heads of the policemen were dedicated to the martyrs of the intifadah as a present on the occasion of Land Day.

Message Sent to Butrus-Ghali on Terrorism

TA3103060093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Israel has sent a message to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali on the current wave of terrorism. It says the aim of the terrorists is to prevent any hope of peace and reconciliation among the peoples of the Middle East. The message is connected with Israel's efforts to prevent the convening of the Security Council at the request of the Arab members to discuss the human rights situation in the territories. Israel, supported by the United States and other Security Council member countries, believes that such a debate would make it more difficult to resume the peace talks on 20 April. More from our diplomatic reporter Jack Katzenell:

The Israeli message to Butrus-Ghali enumerates all the terrorist attacks in the past month and quotes inflammatory statements by spokesmen of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, and the PLO. The terrorists' aim is to kill Israeli and Palestinian civilians, the message says, and to harm the peace process itself. The purpose of the Israeli message is to make the situation known to all UN member countries. Messages to the secretary general are automatically circulated to all UN delegations, which pass them on to their foreign ministries. Almost every day there is a message of this kind to the secretary general from one of the Arab countries, or from the PLO, the Arab League, or the Islamic countries. They make allegations about the human rights situation in the territories and demand that the Security Council be convened to discuss the matter. Their last attempt to convene the Council was made last week, but it failed because the United States and many other Council members maintain that such a debate at this time will make it almost impossible for the Palestinians to attend the reopening of the bilateral talks in Washington on 20 April. This is also Israel's view. However, nobody knows what will happen next week at the United Nations. One Israeli diplomat told me it depends very much on what is happening here in Israel and the territories. That is why it was important for Israel to make its view of the situation known to UN member countries in the message to Secretary General Butrus-Ghali.

Netanyahu Urges 'Emergency Administration' To Fight Terror

TA3003191693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin disclosed today that the Military Chief Advocate's Office has authorized the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in the territories to shoot any Arab who carries a gun, even if he is not threatening to shoot. This afternoon, Mr. Rabin revealed the measures the cabinet had decided on at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports:

[Begin recording] [Nir] [passage omitted] After hearing Rabin, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu suggested that all the Palestinian supportive organizations be shut down, that the exit of Arab laborers from the territories be supervised through orderly organizations, that Israeli contractors who violate the orders be punished, that legislative changes be introduced, and that an emergency national administration be declared. Since you disagree with me, Netanyahu told Rabin, I suggest you resign and let the people decide.

Representatives of the coalition at the committee charged the opposition parties and Netanyahu with inducing the public's panic, to which Netanyahu replied:

[Netanyahu] I heard the charges that the opposition is creating a feeling of panic with a combination of amazement and amusement. Nevertheless, the panic is the result of an ongoing and intensifying wave of terror the like of which we have not witnessed for a long time. It is a result of a leadership failure. It is a result of the weakness and vacuum into which terror enters, and is drawn, with tremendous speed. The problem therefore, is a lack of leadership and determination to execute which the people of Israel need—restoring the feeling of security. [passage omitted]

[Nir] Labor Knesset Member [MK] Hagay Merom called on Netanyahu: Stop being so pompous. You are the leader of the opposition, not the host of some talk show. Tzomet MK Moshe Peled told Merom: Terror is the result of the government's, not the opposition's, policy. He called on Rabin to either declare a state of emergency or resign. Meretz MK Ran Kohen suggested that we brace ourselves for grave terror attacks. He also urged the opposition to stop rejoicing over spilled blood and stand by the government.

Speaking on behalf of the opposition, Netanyahu said: If the government opts for legislative changes to, for example, restrict the High Court of Justice on certain issues, the opposition will support this. [end recording]

The leaders of the opposition parties today called on the prime minister to declare the establishment of a national emergency administration. A meeting of the leaders of all the opposition parties, headed by Binyamin Netanyahu at the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel, ended an hour ago. Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovich reports:

[Begin recording] [Yehimovich] The opposition directorate, the new body set up yesterday by all the opposition parties, continued its energetic activities today as well. The meeting of the heads of all the Knesset opposition factions, headed by the newly elected Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, ended an hour ago. At the meeting, Netanyahu reported that an working group of less senior members of that body will convene this evening to discuss and plan the next steps the opposition will take.

[Netanyahu] It will include demonstrations, permanent vigils, and other activities that will start, in fact, tomorrow. The second act we decided on will be to adopt an operative line in which we will demand the establishment of an emergency administration to fight the expanding terror through taking harsh measures.

[Yehimovich] What do you mean by emergency administration?

[Netanyahu] A series of operative steps that we would be glad to discuss with the government, and which the prime minister can also discuss with us. This includes emergency rules, including operating capital punishment in extreme cases. We will support every determined and responsible step this government will take in the war against terror, and we demand that the government announce the establishment of such an emergency regime as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

[Yehimovich] Undoubtedly, the government will have to deal with an opposition which is more active and certainly better organized, as these meetings indicate. The opposition leaders also discussed a joint collection of funds to finance the protest acts. Still, it seems that this will be all they would do because an attempt to overthrow the government is hard to accomplish as it still has a majority of 61 MK's, even without SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]. The opposition will be very active, but not more than that. [end recording]

Dozens Injured in Territories 29-30 Mar

TA3003190593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Palestinian sources say three settlers from the Qatif Bloc last night burned down a mosque near Kfar Yam, the settlement where Deutch was murdered. The sources also said that the settlers beat up local Arab residents who live near the mosque, and that the victims were hospitalized.

At the al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, Israeli soldiers slightly wounded four local residents with rubber bullets when they dispersed rioters today.

In the Qatif Bloc, gunmen fired several rounds at the industrial zone of Neve Deqalim. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused.

Near Ramallah, soldiers wounded an Arab throwing stones who refused orders to halt.

[Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 30 March carries a report by Nisim Qeynan, adding: "In riots in the Gaza Strip today, 10 locals were injured, according to Palestinian sources. Over the past 24 hours, some 25 residents were injured in the Gaza Strip, both by soldiers who dispersed riots and by local gunmen who shot at collaborators."]

Gur Does Not Rule Out Unity Government

TA3003101793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur does not rule out the establishment of a national unity government in view of the security situation. Interviewed by our correspondent Dalya Ya'iri, Gur said he has been meeting with members of the opposition over the past few days and asked them not to take advantage of the situation for political polemics but rather to cooperate with the government to fight terror. Gur rejected the view that the prime minister's call for citizens to actively defend themselves somewhat passes responsibility from the government to the citizens.

Spokesman Denies Gur Supports Unity Government

TA3003122093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] The spokesman of Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur has clarified that Mr. Gur does not support the establishment of a unity government.

Likud Knesset Member Roni Milo, the former police minister, has said that only if the government acts to increase security will contacts be possible between it and the opposition to formulate a joint policy to fight terror.

Peres Gives Interview to Palestinian Journalists

TA3003140593 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 29 Mar 93 pp 1, 11

[By Khalid Abu-'Akir]

[Text] Jerusalem—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that Israel is ready to carry out a goodwill gesture toward the Palestinians if they return to the negotiating table and participate in the upcoming round, expected to be held on 20 April in Washington.

During a meeting in his office with a group of Palestinian journalists, which is the first of its kind, Peres explained that one of those steps might be to allow the repatriation of a group of Palestinian deportees who have been deported since 1967. However, he refused to disclose other steps.

The Israeli official called on the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table, and said: We hope that the Palestinians will return to the negotiations. This is the advice of most Arab states as well as the United States. He added: If the Palestinians return to the negotiating table, they will find a more generous Israel in a bid to achieve progress in the peace process.

Peres added: It is unreasonable to announce steps before the beginning of negotiations. The settlement must be preserved for the negotiating period, but in general we can say that Israel will endeavor to overcome the differences between our viewpoints and those of the Palestinians, particularly since we are negotiating with the aim of reaching an agreement, not just for the sake of negotiating.

On the other hand, in answer to a question about the six points on which it was announced that agreement had been reached between the Palestinian delegation and the U.S. secretary of state during his visit to Jerusalem, Peres stressed: What we agreed on with Christopher is unalterable. We must keep our promises. Peres expressed his belief that "the United States will not demand any changes or additions."

Peres believed that the current argument about those points "may have arisen from a difference in interpretation between the Palestinians and the other parties, but not necessarily by us because there does not exist any misunderstanding between us and the Americans. What we agreed on is still valid, and the Americans concede that there has been no Israeli retreat in this respect."

About the extent of Israel's readiness to declare clearly that it will not resort to deportation in the future, Peres said: I do not believe that this was the wording of the six points. He added that those points contained what Israel had announced: that deportation will neither constitute a precedent in our policy nor will it be our policy. What happened was an exception to the rule. This is what we said and what we agreed on.

In answer to a question about meetings on various levels between Palestinians and Israelis, Peres hinted that secret meetings had taken place with Palestinians, and said: Secret talks that take place in Jerusalem should remain secret.

The Israeli foreign minister also talked about the concept of withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and said: Gaza belongs to the Gazans. We do not intend to remain there, but we do not want to leave an unstable situation behind us. We want to withdraw in a responsible manner, because instability there will have an impact on the entire region. We want to negotiate over our withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and over who will replace us, after being assured that violence will end.

Damascus Meeting Said To Show Arab 'Blackmail'

TA3003095393 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Mar 93 p 2

[Editorial: "The Extortion Continues"]

[Text] The meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Damascus did not end in "nothing." The fact that it did not culminate in any resolutions is much more than "nothing." It shows that the other side to the peace negotiations continues to practice its traditional blackmail. This blackmail is aimed at the United States, so that it may squeeze from us the necessary reward before 20 April.

Where the political process is concerned, we have no grounds to address any complaints to the Arabs. These were the rules of the game set on the eve of the Madrid conference. If we have any complaints, we should address them to ourselves. We were the ones who decided, due to self-righteousness and weakness, that there are two sets of rules: one for them and one for us. They extort and we deliver the goods and, as is usually the case with blackmail, the price keeps going up.

Once the rules of the game are decided, they should apply equally to both sides. Any side that "passes" on them out of misplaced magnanimity is cutting its nose to spite its face. What will happen if we tell the Americans that, in accordance with the rules, we will not show up on 20 April unless, say, the incidence of stabbing attacks drops drastically?

Peres Meets With Canadian Premier Mulroney

TA3103062293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney says Israel should not be preached to on issues relating to its security needs and has the right to decide on such matters on its own. The Canadian premier was addressing the biannual gathering of the umbrella group of the Canadian Jewish organizations.

Also participating was Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres who said he comes from Israel saddened, but that despite the bloodshed and the severe anguish Israel is determined not to abandon its efforts to advance peace. The foreign minister said he was sure the Palestinians will come to the Washington talks, not because they are doing Israel a favor, but because there is no other real alternative. Peres will remain in Canada until the end of the week.

Research Agreement Signed

TA3103101693 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 31 Mar 93 p 2

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said yesterday that the recent grave terrorist actions create an atmosphere of skepticism which makes advancing the political process difficult.

Peres made the remarks in a meeting with Barbara McDougall, Canada's secretary of state for external affairs. The foreign minister went to Canada to promote economic cooperation between the two countries.

Peres also said that despite the difficulties the Israeli Government is determined to continue the peace negotiations since both Israelis and Palestinians have no alternative.

Peres noted that the Palestinians are learning that despite the public relations successes they pulled off from the deportation of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists they cannot show any real results. "There are things that even CNN cannot achieve. Some things can only be achieved through negotiations," he said.

The minister signed a memorandum of understanding on establishing an Israeli-Canadian joint research and development fund. On the Canadian side, it was signed by McDougall and International Trade Minister Michael Wilson. Under the agreement, each country will transfer annually $1 million to the fund over three years, which will serve to further Canadian research and development projects. [sentence as published]

Israel worked on such an agreement for several years to serve as a basis for economic cooperation between the two countries. The Israeli-Canadian team will also study ways to improve trade ties between the two countries. Minister Wilson stressed that Canada will benefit from the industrial ties since Israel serves as a bridge to Europe while both countries have free trade accords with the United States.

Minister McDougall acceded to a Peres request to try to get Europe to accept Israel within the European geographic framework thus permitting full Israeli activity within UN institutions and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

UN activities are carried out with regional frameworks. Israel, which does not belong to any framework, would like to be included in the so-called "Europe and others" framework.

It was also agreed that Canada would act in the upcoming meeting of the seven industrialized states to lift the economic boycott on Israel.

'Terror' Organizations Issue 'Exuberant' Leaflets

TA3003162993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Over the past few days, terror organizations have been distributing leaflets for the residents of the territories with exuberant expressions of their successes and in view of the Israeli panic-stricken public, as they describe it.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee was briefed today that the leaflets disseminated by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, and the PLO do not differ in style, though the Hamas leaflet uses the harshest language. The leaflets urge the residents of the territories to continue murdering Israelis, mainly soldiers and policemen. One of the leaflets says: If you want to be the pride of your people—kill a soldier! This will be your trial. Another leaflet calls the Israelis swine, scum of the earth, and bastards; and another refers to the soldiers as Nazis.

Kazakhstan Pledges No Nuclear Deals With Iran

TA3103054493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] The Commonwealth state of Kazakhstan says it has not sold nuclear warheads to Iran and has no intention of doing so. Kazakhstan's president and government leaders made assurances along these lines to Israel's ambassador in Alma-Ata. Our reporter says Kazakhstan is not interested in supplying Iran with weapons of mass destruction because it is hoping to strengthen ties with Western countries.

Memoranda of understanding between Kazakhstan and Israel were not signed yesterday because Kazakhstani officials refused to include the name Jerusalem in the agreement and are refusing to hold bilateral discussions in the city. They said doing so could be interpreted as recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The heads of an Israeli delegation now in Alma-Ata, Ministers Shim'on Shetrit and Amnon Rubinstein said that without Jerusalem in the documents they would not sign. The two ministers had been invited this morning for a meeting with the president of Kazakhstan and a resolution is expected.

Ministers, Business Delegation Visit CIS Asian Republics

TA2903091093 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Mar 93 p 2

[Report by Hagay Porschner]

[Text] A delegation of 70 businessmen left yesterday for Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan in Central Asia. The delegation is headed by Minister Shim'on Shetrit (chairman of the committee on economic cooperation between

Israel and Kazakhstan), Minister Amnon Rubinstein, and the directors general of the Economy Ministry and the Energy Ministry.

The ministers will discuss economic cooperation and joint investments with the leaders of the host countries, while the businessmen will examine the prospects of foreign trade and investment in Central Asia.

Officials Meet Jordanian Bank Chairman

JN2903173093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Tawfiq al-Fakhuri, chairman of the Jordan Bank board of directors, today met with the supervisor of the Bank of Israel and Brigadier (Gadi Zohar), head of civil administration in the West Bank, to discuss latest preparations for opening three Jordan Bank branches in the West Bank.

Our correspondent Ahmad 'Ubaydat reports that Mr. al-Fakhuri is a leading Jordanian industrialist and plans to set up a network of factories in the West Bank in order to help the local economy.

Secret Emigration of 100 Yemeni Jews Reported

NC3003062793 Paris AFP in English 0321 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Jerusalem, March 30 (AFP) - Some 100 Jews from Yemen have emigrated secretly to Israel, the ultra-orthodox daily YATED NE'EMAN reported.

The paper complained that the immigrants had been taken to a secular integration centre.

A spokesman for the Degel Hatorah religious party called in a statement for them to be transferred immediately to religious education centres or that such immigration be halted.

Both the semi-government Jewish Agency which handles immigration and the Integration Ministry [as received] refused to comment.

Details on the immigration of Jews from countries considered at war with Israel is regarded as military information and is subject to censorship.

In April 1992, the then Integration Minister, Rabbi Yitzhaq Perets, said that Israel was deploying "secret efforts" to bring 1,500 Jews from the Yemeni towns of al-Rawdah and Sa'dah, north of Sanaa, to Israel.

Between June 1949 and July 1950, some 43,000 Yemeni Jews emigrated to Israel in an airlift dubbed "Operation Magic Carpet." Some 16,000 others went to Palestine before the state of Israel was created in 1948.

According to official figures, 2,000 Yemeni Jews have arrived in Israel since 1950.

State Company Said Ready To Import Iraqi Oil

NC3103103893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1004 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Beirut, 31 Mar (MENA)—The Lebanese paper NIDA' AL-WATAN says the government-run Lebanon Electricity Authority has accepted an offer to import 420,000 metric tons of oil from Iraq through the al-'Aqabah port despite the continued UN economic embargo on Iraq.

The paper describes the deal as an economic and political scandal threatening Lebanon's relations with its brothers and foreign countries.

NIDA' AL-WATAN says the deal was approved because the price of Iraqi oil is lower than world oil. The newspaper does not give details on when and where the deal was concluded or its value. Official sources at the Lebanese Industry and Oil Ministry have not yet commented on the report.

Vatican Official Concludes Visit, Departs

NC3103110493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Monsignor Jean Louis Tauran, the Vatican's secretary for relations with states, has said he sensed Lebanese officials' desire for cooperation and coexistence. He said the Lebanese need to join forces to reconstruct their country and that the Vatican pays special attention to Lebanon. Tauran was speaking at a press conference in the Papal Embassy in Harisa this morning. At 1030, he left for Damascus.

Al-Hariri's 'Achievements' Criticized

NC3103075793 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0550 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Station commentary: "The Debate Session"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: The Chamber of Deputies held its second general session today to discuss government policies and actions. Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri—who was supposed to attend the session at the head of his government, or his working team, if we may call it that—did not attend. Under these circumstances, what could the deputies discuss?

Some may say the deputies were discussing the government as an executive power, not the prime minister as an individual. This, however, is not true in the case of Rafiq al-Hariri's government, which is no one's but al-Hariri's: Al-Hariri is its head, and Harirists are its members. Al-Hariri showed himself to the public and the ministers as the first and only minister.

It is no secret that the government's projects and actions are carried out by al-Hariri alone, without the input of the concerned ministers or ministries. Al-Hariri cooperates not with the minister involved in an issue, but with experts from his own establishments. One of these establishments, which has public roots, is the Development and Construction Council, which has been turned into a services government confiscating the role and responsibilities of the concerned ministries. The council is 100-percent Haririst. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri has not said what he will do from now to the end of summer; he has not said what he has done this far, either. He explained what he is going to do by the year 2002. This means he is sure he will be the prime minister of Lebanon at beginning of the 21th century. [passage omitted]

Is it conceivable that we should wait 10 years before deciding whether al-Hariri has succeeded or failed in his government program? Some governments have survived no more than four months because they did not help the people during their initial 120 days in office. Al-Hariri's government has been in office this long, with services still absent, in fact, they are getting worse.

Here are al-Hariri's three [as heard] achievements so far: a real estate company confiscating the rights of owners and threatening entire regions with displacement; commercial loans threatening Lebanon with bankruptcy; taxes that not only burden the people, but crush them; and the removal of immunity meant to uproot employees and workers and replace them with al-Hariri followers. [passage omitted]

We are not surprised to hear about rampant bribes in administrations, knowing that a large portion of the thieves are not steeling because they need money, but because they are greedy and want to become rich like their official and influential superiors. [passage omitted]

Two Islamic Resistance Members Killed in South

NC3103111493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance said in a statement at noon today that while the Imam al-Sadr group was about to enter Sujud to carry out a certain task, it ran into an Israeli commando unit. A clash involving rockets and machine guns took place. The statement adds that the occupation army brought in armored reinforcements and sought help from helicopters, which raked the scene with machine guns. The resistance mourned 'Ali Hasan Tarabulsi from Dayr al- Zahrani and Hasan Nasir-al-Din from Sujud; they were killed in the clash.

Al-Shar' Briefs Cabinet on Current Developments

JN3003140893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a meeting under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1100 today.

During this meeting, the Council of Ministers reviewed the activities of the economic and services committees, and discussed the general agricultural situation of winter crops and current preparations for securing requirements for the harvest and for receiving and marketing winter crops appropriately.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' delivered a detailed and comprehensive briefing on current political developments in the Arab and international arenas. He stressed that the meeting of foreign ministers from Arab states directly concerned with the peace process was positive and resulted in a unified Arab stand that defined the obstacles erected by Israel to obstruct the peace process and split Arab ranks.

The foreign minister also stressed that discussions at the Damascus meeting were characterized by objectivity and permeated by a high sense of responsibility and a unified view that clearly defined all issues included in the final statement.

The Council of Ministers also discussed issues submitted to it and made necessary decisions.

Outcome of Arab Coordination Talks Assessed

JN3103090893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN comments on the outcome of the coordination meetings held by the foreign ministers of the Arab states concerned with the peace process, saying: These meetings have bolstered the Arab position and spelled out the course that could lead to a just and comprehensive peace.

TISHRIN believes that by hosting the meetings of the foreign ministers of the Arab states concerned with the peace process, Syria has shown itself to be the rallying point for fraternal Arabs. Syria, the paper adds, is aware of the importance of a unified Arab position for the restoration of Arab territories and rights, and also for rendering the peace process a success, given that such a position constitutes an effective weapon in Arab hands that could be used to achieve these objectives. If this process is to reach a successful conclusion, the paper notes, it must be based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of trading territory for peace.

TISHRIN goes on to say: The Arab foreign ministers attending the Damascus meetings have reiterated their adherence to UN resolutions; and this has put the ball in Israeli and U.S. courts. The Arabs are advocates of true peace. They will not relinquish their rights, regardless of the difficulties entailed. By demonstrating unity, the Arabs are capable of confronting all Israeli obstacles and barriers.

TISHRIN says: The Damascus talks held by the Arab foreign ministers have exposed Israel's attempts to thwart the peace negotiations as well as the Rabin government's plans to hamper the peace process. The Arabs are asking the United States to intervene directly to make Israel show a favorable response to the basic components of peace, implement Resolution 799, and halt its human rights violations in the occupied Arab territories.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: The full partner premise set forth by the new U.S. Administration must result in creating the foundations of peace rather than showing a pro-Israel tilt in contravention of the honest and unbiased broker premise. Besides, we would like to say that the unity of Arab positions is too strong for Israel to breach or weaken. Indeed, true peace is achievable only when the occupation is terminated and the Palestinian people's rights are restored.

As for the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, it says: The wagers on weakening the Arab position vis-a-vis the peace process, enfeebling the negotiating positions of the Arab sides directly concerned with the peace process, dealing with them one at a time, and concluding separate settlements with this or that Arab party to the exclusion of other parties have all been proven to be out of the question by the Damascus coordination talks held by the foreign ministers of the Arab states directly concerned with the peace process. The Damascus talks have proven these wagers to be losing ones.

AL-THAWRAH notes the specialness of the meetings held in Damascus by the five Arab foreign ministers, maintaining that these talks have risen to the level of the current challenges. They have lived up to the expectations and hopes pinned on them. Indeed, they have reiterated the unity of the firm Arab position, which is committed to comprehensive peace on all fronts on the basis of full implementation of Security Council resolutions, which provide for unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, and from Lebanese territory as well, and which also call for ending the ordeal of the Palestinian deportees by immediately repatriating them.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The statement issued at the conclusion of the Damascus talks has underscored that Israel should not be accorded special treatment rendering it a state above the law. This statement also rejected the serious precedent of circumventing the resolutions of international legitimacy and bargaining over them. Additionally, it stressed the need for Tel Aviv rulers to comply with resolutions. The reiteration of adherence to pan-Arab constants by the Damascus talks conferees has served to reassure Arab citizens—and this

will give Arab negotiators strength, firmness, as well as an enhanced ability to examine things carefully. Moreover, such a reiteration of constants will also enable them to continue to manage the peace battle successfully and effectively.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: The future of the peace talks and their resumption have remained suspended pending the results of future developments and contacts, the removal of the obstacles placed by Israel in the path of peace, and the performance by the United States of the role of a full and honest partner in the peace process.

Commenting on the same issue, the newspaper AL-BA'TH questions Israel's concept of peace, saying: Israel commits scores of crimes in the occupied territories every day. It then draws the attention of the United Nations to what it calls terrorist attacks against its nationals. It endeavors to demolish the foundations of peace by placing obstacles and planting mines in its path. Then, it sheds crocodile tears over peace.

AL-BA'TH says that Israel wants the blazing revolution being staged in the occupied territories to be extinguished. It also wants the Arabs to capitulate rather than pursue the objective of peace. It wants all parties to accept the conditions of the Zionist strategy, which dreams of dominating the entire region.

AL-BA'TH enumerates various paradoxes characterizing the Israeli course, foremost among which is Israel considering legitimate struggle to end occupation a terrorist activity. Besides, Israel deems the demand that it withdraw from the occupied territories and recognize Arab rights a demand that promotes neither peace nor justice. This is because Israel does not consider the acquisition of others' territory by force a violation of the provisions enshrined in international charters and resolutions.

AL-BA'TH adds: Another Israeli paradox is believing that it is impossible for the Arabs to close their ranks and adopt a unified position. Israel wants each and every Arab party to endorse a separate treaty dictated and detailed by Israel itself.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: This Israeli attitude cannot promote the international efforts currently under way to achieve a just peace in the region. This is because a war is being waged in the occupied territories. The West Bank and Gaza Strip are under total siege, and Israeli troops have received orders to fire randomly at Palestinians. This war constitutes an additional obstacle hampering the peace process, not to mention the obstacle Israel created when it expelled the deportees, who are awaiting a solution to their ordeal. Given all this, one wonders: How then can peace be achieved? Is it not high time Israel showed some seriousness; that is, if it is really seeking peace?

Afghanistan

Official Cabinet Announcement Postponed

BK3003121693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1201 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Kabul, March 30 (AFP)—The expected announcement of a new Afghan cabinet was stalled Tuesday due to further discussions between the president and the prime minister-designate, the presidential spokesman said.

"The cabinet list has not even been delivered to the president yet," said presidential spokesman Abdol Aziz Morad. "We cannot even be sure if the list will be delivered to the president Tuesday," Morad said.

"More discussions are underway," he added.

Contrary to a statement made by Prime Minister-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Pushtun Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction Monday afternoon, it appears the controversial cabinet list is not yet ready.

Morad said talks were held early Tuesday between President Borhanoddin Rabbani (leader of Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society] faction), his ally Rasul Sayyaf (leader of Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union of Afghanistan] faction), and Hekmatyar's deputy Qazi Mohammad Amin Waqad.

These talks were scheduled to continue in the afternoon, according to the official BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY.

No breakthrough was expected before Wednesday at the earliest, Morad said.

A stumbling block to agreement over the cabinet portfolios is the interpretation of the March 7 peace accords signed in Islamabad between all mojahedin faction leaders.

The Islamabad accords established a ceasefire after seven weeks of factional fighting largely between Hezb guerrillas and Rabbani's defence ministry forces commanded by his right-hand man, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

According to these accords, Prime Minister-designate Hekmatyar gets to form the new cabinet—"in consultations with the president and leaders of mojahedin parties ..."

Rabbani's interpretation of consultation is that it requires his agreement to Hekmatyar's nominations; Hekmatyar claims he has no need for presidential approval of his choices.

"In the interests of the country the agreement of the president is necessary in order to create cooperation between him and the cabinet," Morad said.

Morad said far from being ready for announcement, the selection of nominees for the new cabinet was just at the beginning stages.

He said the presidential representative Sayyad Nurollah Emad, who attended Monday's meeting at Hekmatyar's headquarters at Charasiab, 25 kilometres (15 miles) south of the capital, had been told all the mojahedin leaders would be present.

Instead, there was only Hekmatyar and 3 representatives of other faction leaders.

Although Emad told journalists at Charasiab that the talks were "fruitful" he announced on Kabul Radio Monday night that "more discussions are required to solve outstanding problems."

First among the outstanding problems is the future role of incumbent Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, whom Hekmatyar has made no secret about wanting to sack. [passage omitted on history of conflict between Hekmatyar and Mas'ud]

Emad went to the Charasiab meeting with 10 Hezb-e Eslami prisoners-of-war, captured by Defence Ministry troops in the last round of clashes, who were then released as an indication of the president's good faith, official sources noted.

Jehadi Groups Discuss Cabinet

LD3103105593 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Dari to Afghanistan 0905 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Quoting the secretariat of the prime minister, a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports that, as promised, a meeting of jehadi formations was held yesterday morning, and the formation of the cabinet was discussed. In addition to others, a delegation from Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami [Islamic Revolutionary Movement of Afghanistan] headed by Mowlawi 'Abdol Sattar Saddeqi also took part.

The report says that, in line with a previous statement, the list of a new cabinet was due to be presented to the president for official announcement. However, at the request of Ostad [Borhanoddin] Rabbani, this work was postponed until Thursday, 12 Hamal, 1372 [1 April].

The report adds that the work of the Jalalabad meeting had also been postponed until 9 Hamal [29 March] at the request of Ostad Rabbani.

The Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports from Jalalabad that a meeting of jehadi organizations chaired by the prime minister-designate of the country had completed all work concerning the formation of the cabinet, and it was ready to present the list of the cabinet to the president. However, representatives of the president requested on his behalf that this work be postponed until Thursday.

A source of Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] said that the form and (?order) of the

cabinet has been 95 percent completed. Unfortunately, however, its announcement was delayed by the presidency. God willing this will be completed on Thursday.

Hekmatyar Cited on Cabinet Formation

PM3003144193 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 29 Mar 93 pp 4-5

[Interview with Golboddin Hekmatyar, "new Afghan prime minister" and Hezb-e Eslami leader, by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan in Jalalabad; date not given]

[Text] [Zaydan] What will be the general features of the cabinet you intend to form and what qualities will determine the selection of ministers?

[Hekmatyar] President Borhanoddin Rabbani sought a meeting with me before the Jalalabad meetings to discuss the cabinet structure. We asked him to come himself or send a representative to Jalalabad to discuss the cabinet formation. We want a government without opposition, a government acceptable to all, and a government that would control the situation and impose its authority and establish stability. We are trying to have all the organizations represented equally. We want to persuade the big organizations to stop insisting on more cabinet portfolios than the smaller organiztions pending elections which will determine the strength of each party. Four portfolios will go to figures who do not belong to any party. As regards qualifications, a minister has to be sincere, qualified, and honest. We do not want the government to be the headquarters of one party or another. Each party will nominate 10 people from whom a minister will be chosen. That would enable us to form a harmonious government that would be more like a task force. We will try to ensure that there is no competition between ministers so as not to obstruct the government's work.

[Zaydan] How many ministers will the cabinet consist of?

[Hekmatyar] We have not decided that yet, but the number will be less than the present cabinet.

[Zaydan] A delegation representing the Islamic movements and led by Qazi Hussain Ahmed, leader of the Pakistani Jamiat-e-Islami [Islamic Society], has arrived in Jalalabad. In your view, what role can these movements play?

[Hekmatyar] The presence of these movements with us is very useful for the implementation of this agreement and for bringing the brothers together. Hussain Ahmed has special respect for our cause. He spent two weeks in Kabul and we achieved a cease-fire as a result of his good efforts. If he stays with us we will, God willing, implement all provisions of the Islamabad agreement.

[Zaydan] Iran has talked about sending its military forces to observe the cease-fire in Kabul, particularly as the Islamabad agreement stated that the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] would supervise the cease-fire. What is your comment on that?

[Hekmatyar] The Islamabad agreement stated that the ICO would send representatives. It said nothing about dispatching military forces or armies to supervise the cease-fire. There is no need for that and we would never accept it. We do not need an army to help us observe the cease-fire. What we agreed upon does not call for that, and everyone must abide by the agreement.

[Zaydan] Will ICO delegations be arriving, and when?

[Hekmatyar] They have agreed to send delegations and to have an office in the capital.

[Zaydan] Regarding the Uzbek militias led by General Abdolrashid Dustom, what role will they have in the government?

[Hekmatyar] I believe that the role of the militias will be decided by all the leaders. We are working for a unanimous unopposed decision regarding them. You'd better wait until we reach the stage of making such a decision. The militias have supported the agreement and announced their commitment to it. We will form the cabinet and then see what part they can play.

[Zaydan] Jamiat-e Eslami, led by President Rabbani, insists that Ahmad Shah Mas'ud should keep the defense portfolio. What is your view?

[Hekmatyar] There is no need to insist. The cease-fire, ending the war, restoring peace and stability in the country, and forming a government acceptable to all—all this is more important than individuals. Why should we neglect all these important matters because of insistence on the issue of Mas'ud? Ahmad Shah Mas'ud is our brother and we want him to stay with us and to play a part in the cabinet, but on the basis of agreement by all the leaders. If all the leaders agree to give him a post there would be no objection to that, but we need a defense minister who is not opposed by anyone and who is trusted by all and through whom we would be able to collect the heavy arms from all the commanders and to form an Islamic army, so that if we ordered any commander to hand over his heavy weapons to the defense minister, he would not grumble or object.

[Zaydan] Do you intend to meet with Mas'ud?

[Hekmatyar] I could meet him any time anywhere.

[Zaydan] Will you go to Kabul after the formation of the cabinet?

[Hekmatyar] The entry into Kabul will be decided by the cabinet, which will also decide where to begin in connection security in the capital.

[Zaydan] Every government has its priorities. What are your government's priorities for the next phase?

[Hekmatyar] Stability and security in the country, and having an administration capable of controlling all parts of the country and of linking all the governorates as independent statelets. That is in addition to resettling

the refugees, preparing the grounds for elections, and forming a constitutional council, because the country is living in a vacuum with no decisionmaking authority. We have agreed to begin taking practical steps when everyone has agreed to withdraw all military units from Kabul.

[Zaydan] What about the trial of Babrak Karmal and Najibullah?

[Hekmatyar] the fate of Najibullah and Karmal will be decided by the cabinet at the earliest meeting.

[Zaydan] What kind of relations will the Afghan Government have with the outside world?

[Hekmatyar] We want peace in Afghanistan, the region, and the whole world. We want good relations with all states of the world and we are prepared to sign agreements of noninterference in the affairs of others. We want the friendship of all states and we will not interfere in the affairs of others. We want the Afghan people to choose their own representatives and we do not want an imposed leadership. We want an end to all wars in the world and we want an end to international terrorism, drugs, and all kinds of terrorism including individual and state terrorism. We want unity of the Islamic nation.

[Zaydan] The Afghan currency is going through a difficult period, with its value rising or falling as a result of statements made by one leader or another. What steps will you take to improve its value?

[Hekmatyar] The Afghan currency is a complex problem at present. Much money has been distributed without any bank assets or cover. We hope to solve it in the cabinet after consultation with economic experts. We here appeal to all these experts to return to their country to help build their homeland. We will form a committee of economic experts to advise the government.

[Zaydan] The mojahedin, especially your party, still hold Soviet prisoners. What will you do with them?

[Hekmatyar] They are our guests and we will make a decision regarding them.

[Zaydan] What about your government's policy on Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kashmir, and Palestine?

[Hekmatyar] I cannot talk about these issues now. I will leave that until my first official speech as prime minister, but generally speaking I say that we want all injustice to Muslims in Kashmir, Tajikistan, Palestine, and Bosnia-Herzegovina eliminated and we want these people to have self-determination. I believe they have a right to resort to jihad to end the injustice and the aggression against them. It is the Islamic nation's duty to support the oppressed Muslims in the world.

Iranian Envoy Notes Hopes for Consensus

LD2703112693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's envoy to Afghanistan, in a meeting with the Afghan president, emphasized the need for the active presence of representatives from various strata of the Muslim people of Afghanistan in the future government of that country.

According to a report by Voice and Vision correspondent in Kabul, during the course of the meeting our country's envoy also expressed hope that the problems in Afghanistan would soon be resolved via the implementation of the Afghan jihad leader's recent accord.

Afghan President Rabbani also expressed his hope that peace and tranquillity will return to Afghanistan with the materialization of the Islamabad accord.

India

Deterioration Seen in Ties With Pakistan

BK3003115593 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Commentary by T.V. Venkatachalam of the NATIONAL HERALD: "India-Pakistan Relations"]

[Text] The prospects of an improvement in the uncertain state of relations between India and Pakistan look bleak at present. This is because there are no signs of a change in the negative policies pursued by Islamabad in regard to subcontinental developments. In fact, there has been a deterioration in this respect. It is known that for long the terrorists and secessionists operating in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir have been receiving weapons, training, and financial assistance from across the border. Formal denials by Pakistan's leaders and Foreign Office have not been able to conceal from the world the involvement of their Interservices Intelligence—ISI—in what has come to be rightly described as a war by proxy. India has had to take serious note of this since it involves the country's security and integrity.

The suspicion that the recent bomb explosions in Bombay—which caused over 200 deaths and injuries to many other innocent persons—were linked with the same conspiracy from across the border has been confirmed. The chief minister of Maharashtra, who was union defense minister earlier, Mr. Sharad Pawar, told the session of the All India Congress Committee [AICC] in Surajkund, Haryana, that there is clinching evidence of Pakistan's involvement in the blasts. Mr. Pawar was talking with a sense of responsibility when he squarely blamed ISI on the basis of the clues unearthed in the investigations on the blasts. Mr. Sharad Pawar disclosed that the criminals involved were trained in Lahore. An amount of 150 million rupees was spent in providing

them with explosives and weapons to terrorize Bombay, the country's commercial metropolis.

The choice of Bombay for the outrage was obviously guided by the motivation of putting a spanner in India's economic reform by undermining the confidence of foreign investors. The investigations brought to light that some of the conspirators belonging to the Memon family had fled to Karachi via Dubayy. India's request to Pakistan for apprehending and extraditing them to India has met with a near-formal response of cooperation. In actual fact, however, Pakistan has been pretending not to know their whereabouts. Responsible leaders in India, including the External Affairs Minister Mr. Dinesh Singh, have conveyed to Pakistan that their cooperation in bringing the criminals to book would be a test of their friendship.

The blasts are no ordinary crime and its perpetrators cannot escape under a camouflage of political motivation. If there is a certain defensive posture by Pakistan in the matter of cooperation to apprehend the Bombay blasts' culprits, it is obviously aimed at improving their international image. Their involvement in Punjab and Kashmir has already cost them dear in this respect. The United States had conveyed its concern to Pakistan over its involvement in terrorist activity and announced that Islamabad has been placed on the watch list for being included in the category of terrorist states if the situation does not improve. The threat may or may not be carried out, but it reflects the mounting international concern over terrorism which Pakistan cannot ignore. The reaction of many nations, including Britain, the European Community, and the Gulf states to the Bombay blasts should also be an eye-opener to Pakistan that the world does not look kindly to perpetration of such outrages.

The All India Congress Committee, India's ruling party, has noted the totally negative response of Pakistan's rulers to the desire of the peoples of both countries for improved relations. The Pakistan Government's policies, the AICC pointed out, are marked by the sponsoring of terrorism in Punjab, Kashmir, and other areas. This policy is converting Pakistan into a state engaged in international terrorism. The prospect of a friendly dialogue in terms of the Simla accord to settle the Indo-Pakistan differences is doubtful unless Pakistan changes track.

Divergent Views at Water Sharing Talks Noted

BK3003160293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] In the first day's discussions at the two-day meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh joint committee of experts on sharing of common river waters in Dhaka, both sides expressed divergent views on the progress of the talks. While the leader of the Indian delegation, Dr. C.D. Thatte, said the talks were progressing and they are half way through, the head of the Bangladesh team, Mr. Asafuddaula, said he was not happy about the progress. Mr. Thatte told waiting newsmen that we have to sort out some important points before arriving at a long-term solution on the issue. Mr. Asafuddaula remarked that political goodwill was needed more than expert opinions to solve these vexed issues.

Space Chief Says U.S. Sanctions 'Blessing in Disguise'

BK3003143593 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 18 Mar 93 p 12

[By Avinash Singh]

[Text] Bangalore, March 17—"Rather than a setback, the US sanctions against the Indian Space Research Organisation [ISRO] should come as a blessing in disguise," ISRO Chairman Prof. U.R. Rao said today while addressing a press conference on the occasion of the successful completion of five years in space of its first operational remote-sensing satellite, IRS-1A.

"Difficulties to meet our deadlines apart, the move, which was not totally unexpected, has made us start developing our own technology with renewed vigour. Not only are we learning to live without the U.S. help, we are committed to meet our obligations much more than ever before," reassured the space scientist and technocrat-par-excellence this morning. He emphasised that the Indian space programme would continue its march unhindered.

The doyen of the Indian space programme, Prof. Udipi Ramachandra Rao, who is also secretary in the Department of Space, announced that the INSAT-2B should be ready for launch around June. Around the same time, the indigenous Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), capable of putting a 1,000 kg class remote sensing satellite into a 900 km polar sunsynchronous orbit, should also be ready, he informed.

A unique blend of an astrophysicist, a social scientist, and an administrator, Prof. Rao also promised the next launch of the Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV-D4), capable of putting up to 200 kg class payloads in near circular orbits, by the year-end. He informed that 1994 should witness the launches of remote-sensing satellites IRS-1C and 2-C. "If all goes well, IRS-2C will be hooked to INSAT-2B. The satellite would then have two side panels," he added.

Dr Rao termed the IRS-1C and 1D, currently being developed, as supercrafts and revealed that there was a good possibility of putting an operational satellite in them, which should have resolution power up to 20 metres, besides the wide angle cameras. He said the present Nova satellite camera in use had a resolution power up to one km but it could cover a strip of up to 700 kms in one shot because of its 180 degree angle.

INSAT-2B was being hurried because the Arab satellite has become too crowded, he added.

On the performance of IRS-1A, Prof. Rao commented that it was still sending very clear images even though in five years time its battery power has diminished considerably. "But whatever we are getting is a bonus," he said, disclosing that it may last till this year-end.

Coming back to the U.S. sanctions, the former principal investigator for cosmic rays at the Southwest Centre for Advanced Studies in Dallas (now University of California) reiterated that somehow, India was aware that anything related to rocket technology would be difficult to come by and as such "we are developing our own."

Delhi To Execute River Project Without World Bank Loan

BK3003161493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] The government has decided to implement the Sardar Sarovar Project through its own resources instead of resorting to further borrowings from the World Bank. According to an official release in New Delhi, the stand taken by the government was outlined in a short statement on the Sardar Sarovar Project by Dr. Bimal Jalan, executive director of India, at the meeting of the World Bank board of directors in Washington today. In his statement, Dr. Jalan said the Government of India and state governments will fully meet the rehabilitation, resettlement, and environmental standards during the further implementation of Sardar Sarovar Project and other similar important projects. He said his government has been closely monitoring the progress being made in the respective areas of responsibility in meeting the agreed benchmarks on rehabilitation, resettlement, and environment. He said the performance on the environmental benchmarks is better than expected. The official release said the Center will ensure that the project, which is vitally significant for the development of the people of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra, is implemented on schedule.

Lok Sabha Passes SAARC Convention on Terrorism

BK3003152993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] The Lok Sabha today passed the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] convention bill unanimously incorporating two government amendments. The bill seeks to implement the SAARC convention on suppression of terrorism. Moving the bill, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, said that steps should be taken to ensure that the culprits of terrorist acts do not escape prosecution and punishment. The bill provides for extradition of those engaged in the heinous crimes. Supporting the bill, several members urged the government to impress upon Pakistan not to foment terrorism in our country.

Ceiling Imposed on External Commercial Borrowings

BK3003092793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] The government has imposed a ceiling on external commercial borrowings. Disclosing this in the Rajya Sabha, the minister of state for finance, Dr. Abrar Ahmad, said that it has been decided to have an internal ceiling on external commercial borrowing of about 7,500 crore rupees a year, subject to review from time to time. He said the strategy to review dependence on external borrowing includes export promotion, improved earnings through tourism, and internal ceilings.

'Popular Involvement' in Kashmir Advocated

BK3103054193 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 20 Mar 93 p 8

[By Ajit Bhattacharjea: "Autonomy for Kashmir"]

[Text] The reappointment of General K. V. Krishna Rao as Governor of Jammu and Kashmir provides an unmistakable signal that the Centre@is reconsidenng the harsh and barren policies that have brought political disruption, economic disaster and terror and counter-terror to the valley since he was replaced three years ago by Mr Jagmohan. The tragedy will only be enhanced, however, if the signal is not followed speedily by measures to restore popular involvement in the administration.

What is essential is a change of approach. The bureaucratic mentality of assuming that firm administration, with periodic anti-corruption and civic clean-up drives, is an adequate substitute for popular involvement, which may be relatively inefficient at times, is rooted in colonial attitudes. Inevitably, there is increasing recourse to force to put down popular resentment, which takes to violence because it finds no other outlet. In the valley, the assistance that militancy gets from Pakistani-held Kashmir increases the threat .

Yet, there is nothing new about Pakistani attempts to grab the valley by sending in saboteurs and fomenting armed revolt. It was the massive incursion of Pathan tribals in October 1947, killing, raping and robbing as they came, that obliged the then Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir to accede to India so that New Delhi could rush troops to save Srinagar. Though the Maharaja's signature on the Instrument of Accession was legally important, far more significant politically was its endorsement by Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah. But the Maharaja ceded only three subjects to control by New Delhi: defence, foreign relations and communications. Also, unlike any other State, Jammu and Kashmir was authorised to have its own constitution, which it did. This gave it a special status, protected by Article 370 of the Constitution.

It is as important now as then to bear in mind why Jammu and Kashmir was treated differently. It is the only Muslim-majority State in the Union. The valley, its

heart, has more than 90 per cent Muslims. Yet, the bulk of its people endorsed accession to India thaugh Pakistan had just been formed and communal rioting had engulfed even Delhi. Apart from the tribal attack, the unique cultural heritage of the valley, shared by Muslims and Hindus, and the tolerant face of Islamic tradition there, made Kashmir less vulnerable to the type of religio-political fundamentalism that led to the creation of Pakistan. It was not only in 1947 that the Kashmiris resisted infiltration from Pakistan; another large-scale attempt to send in armed infiltrators across the border failed to secure local support in 1965. In fact, in none of the Indo-Pakistan wars has Pakistan received support from Kashmir.

Why has Pakistan been able to recruit so many young men as militants and why do they get considerable popular sympathy? Why have the bulk of the people of Kashmir lost faith in their links with New Delhi? And what must be done to restore lost faith?

There was a gradual erosion of the special status. Apart from Sheikh Abdullah, its Chief Minister were handpicked by the Centre. The youth were disaffected because there were few jobs for the mushrooming number of educated unemployed resulting from free education up to the university level. An increasing number of madrasas [Muslim schools] financed by oil money from abroad provided an injection of fundamentalism.

Resentment mounted sharply when the Farooq Abdullah Government was crudely dismissed in 1984 by Governor Jagmohan by promoting defections. Dr Abdullah's offence was to side with Opposition leaders critical of Indira Gandhi, though this brought the State into the national mainstream as never before. That was Mr JagmoLan's first spell as Governor. Very soon, he exploited the State constitution —which he otherwise wished to abolish together with Article 370—to invoke Governor's rule and, when its six-month term ran out, impose President's rule. During this period, he used his powers to further erode as much of the State's special status as possible.

His unhappy experience seemed to persuade Dr Abdullah that the only way to regain office and attract much-needed Central funding was to ally the National Conference with the Congress, as Rajiv Gandhi insisted. But this was the kiss of death. Since it was founded by Sheikh Abdullah, the appeal of the party in the valley was based on it acting as a guardian of Kashmir rights and sentiment against encroachment from outside, especially from New Delhi. An alliance with the party ruling at the Centre was self-defeating. The National Conference withered away. Dr Abdullah soon discovered that the funds available from New Delhi were insufficient to make good even part of the campaign promises he had made. Popular disillusion was complete.

Pakistan now began to find a measure of response to its efforts to disrupt the valley. The militant movement for independence waged by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) also gained greater support. Large-scale protest demonstrations broke out in 1989. The panicky replacement of General Krishna Rao by Mr Jagmohan as Governor on January 19 1990—the first heavy toll of deaths by police firing occurred the day after the General took over—led to Dr Abdullah's resignation. Police firings and prolonged curfews became routine. Repression became too blatant even for New Delhi and Jagmohan was soon replaced by Girish Saxena, but the damage had been done.

Merely reappointing General Krishna Rao cannot bring back the pre-militant era. New Delhi must make an unambiguous declaration that it is willing to restore as much of the special status that the state has lost over the years, even if it means going back to the three subjects that Maharaja Hari Singh ceded to New Delhi in October 1947. It is more than likely that the electorate will find certain other links with the Centre, like coming under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, are to their advantage. Financial linkages will also have to be close if the state is to develop. But the precise quantum of autonomy should be for the people of Jammu and Kashmir to determine, not New Delhi. Another problem that may prove difficult to resolve is that Jammu and Ladakh have been less keen on enhanced autonomy than Kashmir. They will have to get something special to go along.

In many ways, the current political environment is more congenial for a settlement along these lines than before. The sharp break between the Congress and the' Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] after Ayodhya means that the BJP exerts less influence on the Narasimha Rao Government than before, as evidenced by manner in which the ban on the proposed BJP rally in New Delhi on February 25 was imposed. Contrast the water-cannon deployed against Dr Murli Manohar Joshi that day with the army guard he was given to enable him to raise the flag in a Srinagar under curfew on January 26, 1992.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Dismisses U.S. Terrorism Allegations

LD3103140793 Tehran IRNA in English 1332 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 31, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry today brushed aside the allegations levelled by the U.S. secretary of state against Iran yesterday, describing them as "unfounded, worthless and an indication of confusion in Washington's foreign policy."

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the aim of Washington in raising such false accusations and launching anti-Iranian propaganda was to blackmail the Islamic Republic and get concession.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, testifying before a senate sub-committee Tuesday [30 March], called Iran an "international outlaw" and a supporter of "terrorism" in various parts of the world. He also accused Iran of trying to acquire weapons of mass destruction.

The spokesman said that Christopher's statements were aimed at diverting world public opinion from Washington's full-scale support for Israeli-sponsored state terrorism and for terrorist activities against those countries which oppose U.S. domination.

"The U.S. bears a grudge against independent countries such as the Islamic Republic which only rely on the wish and will of their own peoples," he said. He said the present U.S. Administration, contrary to its pre-election slogans in support of democracy and respect for the wishes of world nations, is pursuing the same bullying and domineering policies of its predecessors such as backing repressive and dictatorial regimes like that of Israel.

"Instead of raising such accusations against Iran, the U.S. Adminstration had better honestly tell its people that it is unable to adhere to its election slogans on foreign policy and that its illicit interests are tied to its support for dictatorial regimes and terrorist groups," said the Foreign Ministry spokesman.

World Bank Approves $165 Million Credit

LD3103143693 Tehran IRNA in English 1251 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 31, IRNA—The World Bank (WB) board of directors on Tuesday [30 March] approved granting a dlrs. [dollars] 165 million credit for expansion of Qom power plant.

The project is the fifth within the cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and WB.

The total budget for the project is dlrs. 213 million, dlrs. 165 million of which will come from WB and the rest from other credit sources. A rls. [rials] 63 million will also be spent on the project.

The project, to be completed in four years, includes setting up a 400 kilovolt high voltage post and a 400 kilovolt electricty transfer line to boost the capacity of north-south electricity network of the country and connecting the Qom power plant to the nationwide network.

Qom power plant is 15 kms from Qom and 150 kms from southern Tehran and four 100-megawatt gas turbines are to be installed in the near future.

U.S. Position on World Bank Loan Viewed

LD3103122693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1001 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has said in his remarks at one of the U.S. Senate committees that the U.S. Administration is trying to prevent Iran from receiving international loans. In justifying this policy, he said that Iran was an uncontrollable country and charged it again with the same old accusation that it is supporting terrorism.

Christopher's latest remarks demonstrate, in reality, America's reaction toward the programs of the World Bank. The World Bank has announced that it will be placing a loan at Iran's disposal for the purpose of assisting the progress of Iran's health programs. The U.S. secretary of state—by alleging that Iran is trying to have access to weapons of mass destruction—was endeavoring to suggest that the loans of the World Bank to Iran would not be used for health programs but for gaining access to weapons.

Christopher's emphasis on America's hostile stance toward Iran and that country's efforts to block international loans from being granted to Iran, stems from America's hatred of and grudge against the independent policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

America's hostility toward Islamic Iran is nothing new. The enmity, which began immediately after the victory of the Islamic revolution and the end of American influence in Iran, intensified with the termination of the Cold War and a change in the bipolar order within the framework of America's policies to place itself forward as the world's sole superior axis.

To this end, America began to exert pressure on countries that had policies that were independent from its own, so that it could shape the new order it had in mind. In this regard, by describing independent policies as policies that undermine and disrupt the international order, America intensified its pressure against countries that are opposed to it. By presenting these countries as countries that are regional threats and that could replace the threat posed by the existence of communism in the world at the time of the Cold War, America is trying to gain international support for its own policies. In this way, while exerting pressure on independent countries in practice, America has also raised to a maximum level the cost of implementing these kinds of programs.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, both because it enjoys an independent stance towards the expansionist-seeking policies of America and also because it is placed in a strategic position that attracts the attention of big powers under new world circumstances, has been the object of America's hostile attacks more than anyone else. That country is seeking with all its strength to prevent measures that

strengthen Iran in conducting its policies. In this regard—despite the fact that Iran has spent the least amount on its military sector—it is being condemned as a country that has an arms policy program. [passage omitted]

Iran has signed the nuclear nonproliferation pact, and seeks to make peaceful use of nuclear energy within the framework of the regulations accepted by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Even though there is not much hope that America's hostile stance toward Iran will disappear, what is certain is that by sustaining this stance, America cannot prevent Iran from following its independent and principled stances.

Georgia's Shevardnadze Invites President To Visit

LD3103152893 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 31, IRNA—Georgia's leader Eduard Shevardnadze has invited President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to pay a visit to the Transcaucasus republic.

The invitation was made in a meeting with the Iranian charge d'affaires to Georgia, Fereydun Haqbin in Tbilisi today.

Shevardnadze underlined further expansion of mutual cooperation and said that under the present circumstances, Tehran-Tbiilsi cooperation is not only beneficial for the national interests of the two sides but also for the region as a whole.

He termed the establishment of the Iranian Embassy in Tbilisi, as an important step toward implementation of bilateral agreements signed in Tehran during his visit last January.

Haqbin briefing Shevardnadze on Tehran-Tbilisi ties, hoped that implementation of the agreements would boost bilateral relations.

Velayati, Indian Envoy Discuss Expansion of Ties

LD3003140293 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 30, IRNA—Indian Ambassador to Iran Ramesh Chander Arora told Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Tuesday [30 March] that New Delhi was willing to broaden and strengthen ties with Tehran.

Arora also briefed Velayati on the latest measures taken by Indian economic and industrial institutions to implement agreements reached by the two countries during the last year's meeting of their Joint Economic Commission in New Delhi.

The Indian ambassador also called on Iranian and Indian mass media to deal with mutual relations and cooperation more seriously.

The two officials also explored ways of expanding economic relations between the two countries.

Ayatollah Assails UN, Secular Arab Governments

LD2603192493 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1556 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini-Qomi, speaker of the Assembly of Experts, in Qom on 26 March—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Everyone knows that the United Nations is not just concerned with ideas and issues. They claim that they respect human rights. But they do not respect human rights and commit crimes. Their methods indicate that they are the enemy of Islam. They do not respect rights. You are aware of the way they dealt with Iraq, over the issue of Kuwait. How quickly they issued the resolutions—12 resolutions in a few days. They mobilized all the countries against Iraq, because Iraq was bullying Kuwait. What was the intention? Where they sorry for Kuwait and for the Kuwaiti nation? There was oil there and they wanted the oil. The reason for their action is clear.

But now, it is over a year since the criminal Serbs attacked and continue to kill a group of Muslims who are short of weapons or have none at all. The United Nations meets to make a decision. It is delayed and delayed again. Finally they decide to distribute a little food. By plane. So that the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina will not die of hunger. Then it becomes known that the food was distributed among the Serbs. This is their way. Their unjust ways. We will complain to God and leave it to God. They don't listen.

And we have something to say to Islamic countries, which I will present here briefly. The Islamic countries have made a decision to finally make a deal with Israel. I say: This is not in your interest. You stood against Israel for a while. Israel was boycotted. Israel was put aside. Now after all this imprisonment by the Americans, it is not right. They [Islamic countries] should be with their nations. I sometimes think: What would be wrong if these Islamic countries and Islamic governments cooperated with their nations. They will be independent like Iran. But I see that two things are an obstacle for them. First: They have opened the gates of their countries to the unbelievers and the enemies of Islam. Their countries are full of enemies and are controlled by the enemy. Their army is controlled by the enemy. Their mines are controlled by the enemy. I do not want to mention any names from our own neighbors, where the army and the mines are in the hands of America. All that they have is controlled by the enemy. These poor people can never push them out. It seems impossible. Our only hope is people's Hezbollah. Only they might do something.

From another point of view they have a logic of their own. This is interesting. The Islamic countries say that their governments are secular. This means government without Islam. It has nothing to do with Islam. The nation is Muslim. Let them be. But the government is secular. Gentlemen, can a secular government rule over a Muslim nation? Your government wants to rule over

Muslims. Your income belongs to the Muslim people. Where you leave, your home and your palace, all belong to the people. You want to form a government for the Muslims and call it a secular government. The secular government and Muslim nation contradict each other. They are not the same. They have formed such governments and say their governments are secular. From this point of view they cannot cooperate with their nations. So they fight against them. [passage omitted]

Commentaries View International Drug Problem

Need for International Cooperation

NC2803075093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Unattributed commentary by the Central News Unit's Research Group; from the "In the Margin of the News" feature]

[Text] During the 36th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which is to be held 29 March-7 April in Vienna, the Tehran Declaration will be reviewed as an important UN document. The Tehran Declaration, issued at the 29th session of the UN Subcommission on the Near and Middle East attended by drug enforcement ministers from the region, envisages a practical program for fighting drugs. The Tehran Declaration envisages intensifying the fight against narcotics in the region and the formation of a regional office which will supervise the implementation of UN plans and the goal of forming a special international bank to aid poppy farmers.

The declaration also notes the need to compile laws and create centers for the exchange of information on routes used in drug trafficking, on the confiscation of property, on identifying suspicious banking transactions, and on controlling chemical products.

A glance at the narcotics problem reveals that this has spread to all countries, regardless of whether these countries have things in common. The existence of international drug smugglers of various nationalities has led to the emergence of powerful drug-trafficking networks, which have triggered profound changes in political and social stability in some parts of the world. Political developments in some countries and sociopolitical instability in specific areas, especially East Europe, have led world drug production and trafficking networks to resort to new methods to continue their activities.

Despite all the global developments, however, Iran continues to remain a major route for drugs destined for Europe. Therefore, all the countries of the world, especially countries that are more visibly involved in the drug problem, should study new ways to cooperate with Iran, especially since Iran is among those countries that have been successful in the fight against drugs and has gained much experience in this field.

The convening of the 36th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs and a review of the Tehran Declaration will open up a new opportunity for studying more effective ways to fight narcotics—a problem that threatens the health of the entire world.

Action Urged in Vienna

NC3103065993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 31 Mar 93

['Alizadeh commentary by the Central News Unit's Research Group from the "In the Margin of the News" feature]

[Text] The 36th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs was held in Vienna. Brigadier General Reza Seyfollahi, commander of Iran's law enforcement forces, told the session that the UN Human Rights Commission's policies pave the way for the absence of a decisive approach on drug smugglers, and he warned of the consequences of such policies.

Because of its global dimensions, the fight against narcotic drugs is a main problem for countries involved with this problem in one way or another. It is important to pay attention to the fight against narcotic drugs because international smugglers of various nationalities have set up numerous drug trafficking and distribution networks and are threatening the political and social stability of countries. In addition, they target a nation's youth. This clearly shows the need for a decisive fight against narcotic drugs and drug trafficking networks.

However, some international organizations and bodies overlook the need to decisively fight those who threaten societies. They question the heavy punishments imposed on those responsible for this illegal trade, referring to the punishment as a violation of human rights. However, if nations do not decisively punish the culprits, an irreparable blow will be inflicted on society.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which has always supported a pitiless fight against drug smugglers, asks the Vienna session to bear in mind the 1988 convention, to exercise the maximum punishment on drug smugglers, and to support the Islamic Republic of Iran in view of the valuable experiences it has gained in the fight against drugs.

On this basis, the Vienna session grants yet another opportunity to study the existing realities of the practical fight against the problem of drugs, an issue to which the international community should pay careful attention.

Khamene'i Pardons 1,682 for Islamic Republic Day

LD3103082293 Tehran IRNA in English 0704 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 31, IRNA—Some 1,682 prisoners were pardoned or their sentences commuted by the the

leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i on the occasion of the Islamic Republic Day, April 1.

The amnesty was granted at the proposal of the head of the judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi.

The convicts had been sentenced by public, military and Islamic Revolution's courts.

Afghan Islamic Party in Tehran Warns Against 'Plots'

LD3103114693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] In a statement, the Representative Council of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] called upon its members and supporters to use vigilance, awareness, and Islamic wisdom and to become seriously involved in determining their fate, in order to foil plots to eliminate or weaken the Hezb that are hatched by agents of arrogance.

The statement by the Representative Council of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami of Afghanistan in Tehran states that the realization of social justice and the establishment of a government of Islamic justice in Afghanistan are the goals of the Hezb-e Wahdat. It stresses that the awareness and Islamic wisdom of supporters and members of the Hezb-e Wahdat are very important in attaining these two goals.

* Elections, President's Possible Rivals

93LA0008F London KEYHAN in Persian 7 Jan 93 p 12

[Text] One of the hot discussion topics these days, especially in Tehran and Qom, is how the next presidential election, set for 21 Khordad 1372 [11 Jun 1993], will be held. Will it be like the previous elections, in which Hashemi-Rafsanjani won so easily, or will strong rivals come to the arena and make it difficult for him? Among the people who may enter the race as Hashemi-Rafsanjani's election rivals are such individuals as Mohammad Musavi-Kho'ini, the manager of the influential newspaper SALAM, and Karbaschi, the mayor of Tehran, who was recently been publishing a newspaper called HAMSHAHRI, which is published in four colors on 16 pages, at high cost. In interested circles, the name of Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the former prime minister of the Islamic Republic, is also occasionally mentioned. He is a strong supporter of extensive government involvement in economic affairs and keeping prices artificially low with the help of a subsidy system.

Informed sources say that Hashemi-Rafsanjani is not afraid of any of these people becoming candidates, with one exception: Ahmad Khomeyni, who will only make himself a candidate if he prepares the way and strengthens his position. The same circles say that the person who is pushing Ahmad into the arena from behind the scenes is his sister, Ms. Zahra Mostafavi, who had said prior to the first presidential election after Khomeyni's death that she considered her brother in every respect qualified for the presidency.

It is no secret that the fate of the presidential elections, like that of the Majles and the Assembly of Experts elections, will be determined not after they are held but before they are held, and the decisions that these influential groups make will be much more conclusive than the votes that are cast in the ballot boxes.

In any case, the election campaign, has begun unofficially, and informed circles believe that Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent visit to Qom is a preparation for this fight as well. If Hashemi-Rafsanjani is able to garner the support of the Qom Seminary Teachers' Association, then any rival who could threaten his position will not nominate himself.

In Qom, Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited Ayatollah Golpayegani, who after the death of Ayatollah Kho'i is considered the greatest source of emulation for Shiites. And for appearances, he also visited Ayatollah Araki, who is frail and not very influential.

Rumor has it that Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who was very interested in visiting Ayatollah Montazeri as well, was not given an audience by Montazeri.

Steel Production at Ahvaz Plant up by 54 Percent

LD2903063093 Tehran IRNA in English 0500 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 29, IRNA—The total steel production of 'Ahvaz steel complex' reached 805,000 tons [number and unit as received] in the Iranian year 1371 (March 21, 1992-March 20, 1993), up by 54 percent as compared with its previous year.

The national steel company said in a report that 100,000 tons of steel bars were also produced by the company during the same period.

350,000 tons of the said products were exported, the report added.

[Tehran IRIB Television First Program in Persian at 1430 GMT on 28 March ran a similar report but quoted the yearly production figure as "850,000 tonnes."]

* Tens of Montazeri's Supporters Arrested

93LA0012A London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Mar 93 pp 1, 11

[Text] Information from reliable sources in Tehran and Qom indicates that in the last two weeks tens of Ayatollah Montazeri's supporters in these two cities and also in the province of Esfahan, especially Najafabad, Montazeri's birthplace, have been arrested and imprisoned. The same sources say that most of these people were arrested by police, Revolution Guards, or the Basij without an order from a judicial authority, and some of them were also turned over to judicial officials.

The government ordered the media not to publish any reports about Montazeri and the arrests related to him. Because the telephones in his house have been cut, the house itself is cordoned off by police forces and access is given only to close family members who live in his house, there is no independent information on this.

Only the newspaper SALAM, printed in Tehran, found a way around this news censorship, and that was by a very cautious means. In this newspaper's column "Alo SALAM" (dated 27 Bahman 1371 [16 Feb 1993]), a telephone caller says to the newspaper, "the general prosecutor's statement that we have only two political prisoners is really not correct, because they arrested at least one of those close to me, and four people close to him (Haj Davud Karimi, Durkeshan, Mehdi Fath'ali, Mohammad Movahedi, Mansur Mohseni Kucheki) five days ago in connection with their support of Ayatollah Montazeri." The caller then added ironically that there are thus "at least seven" political prisoners.

In the 29 Bahman [18 February] issue of the same newspaper in the same column, again someone states over the telephone that "the press wrote harsh and threatening things about Ayatollah Montazeri, and from these writings it appears that he made a speech, but-...they did not print the speech so the people could judge better. If they do not consider the people worthy and able to perceive, then why did they raise the issue? Second, one hears that after that speech, a number of people attacked his house twice, and this even led to destruction and the removal of some furnishings and assets. Did these people do this on behalf of official and lawful organizations? If this is the case, it is very ugly for the government...and if a group of people did this on their own initiative, again it is not an attractive thing for the government...and you also remained silent."

The newspaper SALAM adds to this telephone statement: "Unfortunately this weakness exists in the method of information delivery in all the nation's media, and that includes the press. Even the responsible organizations have always thought it best to keep society uninformed. Of course, because no information on these incidents has reached us via the government's officials, we ourselves have refrained from printing reports on this because of the sensitivity of the issue (there was also no possibility for our reporter to get all the facts of the case). We are also asking ourselves your questions, and so far we have not obtained the answers."

* Montazeri's Son Accuses Press of Lies

93LA0012B London KEYHAN in Persian 11 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] In its 17 Esfand (8 Mar) issue, the newspaper SALAM of Tehran writes that the Tehran newspapers did not print the report given to the media by Engineer Ahmad Montazeri, son of Ayatollah Montazeri, but on the other hand, what they did print was not true. Ahmad Montazeri says that IRNA claimed it interviewed Ayatollah Montazeri, and yet "the interview was...with me, Ahmad Montazeri." And then, "not even one sentence in any of the quotations...was correct. It is most unfortunate that no domestic newspaper prints an interview by the nation's official news agency and yet a newspaper whose audience is Persian speakers outside the country (probably meaning KEYHAN-E HAVA'I) prints these kinds of distortions."

The newspaper SALAM writes: Ahmad Montazeri sent an undistorted account of his interview to the newspapers, but none of them, including SALAM, printed it. SALAM accepts this as a "weakness."

Nepal

King, Prime Minister Discuss NPT With DPRK's Yi Chong-ok

BK3103113393 Hong Kong AFP in English 0956 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Kathmandu, March 31 (AFP)—North Korean Vice President Yi Chong-ok met Nepal's Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala to discuss matters of bilateral interest, a Foreign Ministry source here said Wednesday.

Yi and Koirala discussed the present tense political situation on the Korean Peninsula, including North Korea's decision to withdraw from the international Nuclear Non-Proliferation [NPT] treaty. Koirala explained, during the meeting late Tuesday, that the Nepal government, as a signatory to the treaty, was fully committed to its implementation, a Nepali spokesman said.

Yi arrived here on March 27 for a five-day visit to Nepal after an earlier postponement. His visit went ahead against the advice of the Nepalese Foreign Ministry which cited a heavy political schedule this week.

Yi also met the Chairman of the National Council (Upper House) Beni Bahadur Karki on Tuesday and discussed matters of mutual interest, a Parliamentary Secretariat source said.

Later Yi was received by King Birendra at the Narayanhity Royal Palace.

Nepal's Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Ram Hari Joshi was also present.

Transportation 'Paralyzed' as Strike Continues

BK3003132093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1116 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Kathmandu, March 30 (AFP)—A strike called by transport unions to protest stringent new road safety laws paralysed Nepal for a second day Tuesday with businesses, schools and tourists hit by the stoppage.

A joint committee of transport unions called the indefinite strike to demand the withdrawal of laws that will hold the owners of vehicles responsible for accidents or loss of life.

Schools were forced to close and tourist buses were off the roads as most owners joined the stoppage, which began Monday.

Owners say the new law, aimed at cutting Nepal's high road death rate, is unfair and undemocratic because of the heavy penalties imposed on them if their vehicles are involved in accidents.

The joint action committee of the Nepal Transport Entrepreneurs Association (NTEA), the Nepal Truck Owners Association and the Nepal Transport Labourers Organization called for a complete "wheel jam" across the country after a seven-point ultimatum to the government expired Sunday, a police source said.

Taxis, autorickshaws, buses, minibuses and trucks come under the private transport organizations. Witnesses said some people refrained from using their cars for fear of attack from strikers.

According to the president of the NTEA Chop Narayan Shrestha, nearly 500,000 transport labourers, workers and vehicles cleaners across the country had joined the strike.

"If the transport strike affects the general public, the (Prime Minister Girija Prasad) Koirala government should be held responsible for it," he said.

Last year on one main highway alone 750 people were killed, deaths the public blamed on vehicle owners and drivers for their negligence in maintaining vehicles in a safe condition and for careless driving.

Pakistan

Akram Zaki Blames Indian Agencies for Bombay Blasts

BK3003143693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] The secretary general for foreign affairs, Mr. Akram Zaki, has said Pakistan condemns the terrorist act committed in Bombay on the 12th of this month and will continue its sincere efforts to cooperate with India in discovering the truth about the heinous crime. Mr. Zaki told a news briefing in Islamabad this afternoon that it would be tragic, if some Indian agencies have sacrificed the lives of hundreds of their citizens to achieve the goal of having Pakistan declared a terrorist state by the U.S. Government. He said, in India, there seems to be no serious effect to discover the truth and punish the culprits. He said the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, immediately conveyed to the Indian Government all readiness to cooperate in apprehending the suspects and directed all security agencies to investigate the incident. He said we stand by our commitment to fully cooperate with India in apprehending the suspects, if they have indeed entered Pakistan. He appealed to the world community to urge the Indian Government to adopt a more reasonable approach and not to further vitiate the political atmosphere in South Asia. He said the prime minister has been making serious efforts to engage Indian leaders in a constructive dialogue to reach a peaceful solution of Indo-Pak dispute.

Rathore To Lead Crossing of Line of Control 4 Apr

BK3103113993 Karachi DAWN in English 31 Mar 93 p 20

[Text] Rawalpindi March 30—Former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and president People's Party, Azad Kashmir, Raja Mumtaz Rathore, announced on Tuesday that his party had decided to cross the Line of Control [LOC] at Chakothi on April 4 to invite attention of the world to the Kashmir issue.

In a letter addressed to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. He said the march towards Chakothi and crossing of Line of Control would be peaceful and unarmed.

Copies of the letter were delivered to both President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

He assured them that the march would be peaceful and in protest against Indian atrocities and killings.

He hoped that the protest march and crossing of the Line of Control would not be obstructed by the Governments of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir and use of retaliatory force would also not be resorted.

Rathore named his party's protest march and LOC crossing as "Safar-i-Shahadat" (Journey to Martyrdom).

"The uprecedented Indian atrocities against unarmed men, women, youth and children in Indian-held Kashmir are going on unabated, dangerously changing the demographic graph of the Muslim population there," He said.

He said over 400,000 Indian military and para-military troops armed with latest weapons are busy in molesting and massacring the population.

It was no hidden fact that thousands of innocent people of Kashmir area are languishing in torture cells set up by Indian occupation forces not only in held Kashmir but in such far-flung areas as Rajasthan, Agra etc, he added.

Despite this horrendous situation, he said, the world community was not paying serious attention towards the killings of Kashmiris by Indian [as published] and the United Nations resolutions still remain to be implemented.

He said in his view those UN resolutions formed a sort of global agreement on Kashmir by the world community.

He emphasised that all parties to that agreement were morally, politically, strategically and internationally bound to get it implemented.

Economic Growth Rises to 6.4 Percent in 1992

BK3003070893 Karachi DAWN in English 21 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, March 20—Pakistan economy presented a mixed performance in 1992 with the growth rate increasing from 4.6 per cent in 1989-90 to 5.6 per cent in 1990-91 to 6.4 per cent in 1992, says a report released by the Institute of Policy Studies [IPS] here on Saturday.

The report based on a two-day meeting of the IPS Economic Working Group chaired by Dr. Arshad Zaman described the fiscal position as "the most disturbing sector" that necessitated substantial borrowings from the banking system even to meet the deficit of current account.

"The shift of borrowing from non-bank to bank sources is the major factor contributing to accelerated money expansion which was 6.4 per cent in 88-89, 12.6 per cent in 89-90, 17.9 per cent in 90-91 and has now reached 20.6 per cent in 1991-92", the report said.

The Group formed by Islamist economists observed that the saving sector failed to show any improvement saying "as compared to the gross investment which increased from 18.1 per cent in 1990-91 to 18.3 per cent in 1991-92, the national savings were not pulling their weight in financing the higher level of investment".

"The national and private saving, in fact, went down during the year", the report said adding "a consequence of this poor performance, reliance on foreign loans and grants will be further increased which already impinge our economic sovereignty".

On budgetary deficit, the report said that the budgetary documents revealed was a "sad spectacle". "The deficit has gone down from 8.7 per cent last year to 6.5 per cent in 91-92", the Group said and added that according to State Bank, the Government borrowings for budgetary support had gone up considerably.

The Group, however, found out 2.5 per cent increase in the revenue collection and thus described it as an "encouraging factor". It also saw "improvement" in development expenditures which showed an increase from 6.4 per cent in 90-91 to 6.9 per cent in 91-92. The IPS economists, however, stressed the need to check the current expenditures as they believed there was "continuous pressure" on current spendings.

Because of the managed floating of exchange rate introduced since January 1982, the balance of payment does not appear to be taking full impact of the monetary expansion, the report said adding that the exports went up hy 12 per cent in 1992. The imports also increased during the year, yet there was improvement in the trade balance to the tune of U.S. dollars 0.2 billion over the last year.

The IPS Economic Working Group, which meets annually to review the economic conditions, observed that economic distribution in Pakistan remained deteriorated during the year and noted that the Government also failed to diversify and expand the rural economy.

The Group also expressed its dissatisfaction with the Government's Islamisation policy, saying "it does not appear to be high on the agenda of the Government". The Commission of Islamisation of Economy has submitted to the Government a report on measures that are needed to correct the deficiencies of the past policies on the Islamisation of banking practices, but nothing concrete has emerged so far, the report concluded.

Khan, Sharif Congratulate New PRC President Jiang Zemin

BK2903093793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] The president and the prime minister have felicitated Jiang Zemin on his assumption of office as president of the People's Republic of China.

In his message, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said Jiang Zemin's assumption of the office of Chinese president at this critical juncture when the world is in a state of transition augurs well for international peace and stability. Well-merited elevation of a friend of Pakistan to this great office is bound to have a positive impact on evolving a new international order.

In his message, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the appointment manifests the Chinese people's trust in Jiang Zemin's outstanding leadership qualities. He recalled his fruitful meeting with the new Chinese leadership in December last and expressed confidence that Pakistan-China friendship will continue to strengthen with the passage of time.

Joint Uzbek Ministerial Commission Session Begins

BK3003152793 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] The Pak-Uzbek joint ministerial commission began its session in Islamabad today. In the inaugural session, it was decided to form two working groups—one on trade and commerce and the other on industrial and technical cooperation. Addressing the inaugural session, the minister of state for economic affairs, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, said the establishment of the Pak-Uzbek joint ministerial commission is an important milestone as it provides an institutional arrangement for indepth review of existing economic relations between the two countries.

The visiting first deputy minister for foreign economic relations of Uzbekistan, Mr. Ratbek R. Rustambekov said both countries have bright prospects and potential for mutually beneficial economic cooperation.